PRESTON NORTH END FC

Derby Days

ONE HUNDRED MOST MEMORABLE GAMES

against North End's local rivals

BY DEAN HAYES

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INTRODUCTION

In the eyes of the sporting public of Preston, the matches that really matter are those 'DERBY DAY' games against local rivals Blackburn Rovers, Blackpool, Bolton Wanderers and Burnley - the day when the intense rivalry between North End and their Lancashire opponents comes to the fore.

North End along with three of these clubs were founder members of the Football League and with the first League meeting against Blackpool being played in November 1901, the Whites have played competitive games against these four opponents for over one hundred years!

League form has nothing in the least to do with results - anything can happen - every match is like a cup-tie, very hectic.

There is certainly no love lost between Preston and any of these four clubs, with old rivalries surfacing each time the teams meet.

This book I hope captures the flavour of 100 of those 'Derby Days'.

Dean P. Hayes
Pembrokeshire
October 2002

FOREWORD

by Craig Brown

When you think of famous derby matches, those such as Liverpool versus Everton, Manchester United versus Manchester City and Celtic versus Rangers come to mind. Fans involved, however, believe their own team's derby matches is the most intense.

I have seen local derbies all over the world, the Glasgow one is certainly the one for me. I have been at the Liverpool, Rome derby and the Milan derby. All over the world I have seen local derbies.

Lazio versus Roma stands out. I used to do some work on Channel 5 and I was over in Rome several times. I saw Mr Eriksson lose 4-1 against Roma with Capello the coach and it was quite an electric atmosphere. Even though the stadium is quite far back from the pitch, they were in there three hours before the start and it was almost full even then.

I have seen the local derby in Rio, Brazil as well. I have seen them all over the world but the Lancashire derbies at Deepdale are much tighter, with the crowd almost touching you and this adds to the passion and the intensity on and off the field.

When I was asked to write this foreword, I was yet to experience a Lancashire derby and we were just approaching our match against Burnley in November 2002. In the week leading up to the game, I could already sense the rivalry and unique atmosphere a derby match brings beginning to build.

This was quite an important one for us and I was really looking forward to a full house and a good game.

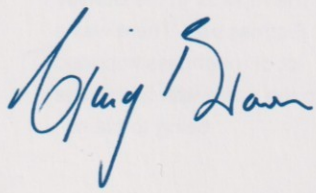
Football's big derby matches were born in Lancashire, with Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Blackpool and our own Preston North End, all rivals in the early days of professional football in England which has continued for the last 125 years.

This book contains some amazing matches, with many talented players playing key roles; Sir Tom Finney, Sir Nat Lofthouse, Sir Stanley Matthews, Ronnie Clayton and Jimmy McIlroy just to name a few of the many greats featured.

Managing a team in a derby match is really is quite an appealing prospect and it was something I was looking forward to doing with Preston North End. You can guarantee that if you get a result for your players and fans, it gives them a morale boost and leaves a smile on their faces for many weeks.

I hope that reading this book brings back some good memories for you and leaves a smile on your face.

Enjoy reading.



Craig Brown
October 2002

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 8th September 1888

Late start but North End win first-ever League game.

Final Score
Preston North End 5 Burnley 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (J.Ross 2 Dewhurst 2 Gordon)
Burnley (Gallacher Poland)

Attendance
3,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Howarth R.Holmes
A.Robertson W.Graham J.Graham
J.Gordon J.Ross J.Goodall F.Dewhurst
G.Drummond
Burnley
A.Lang W.Bury J.Abrams D.Friel
J.Keenan A.Brady W.Tait F.Poland
P.Gallacher J.Yates

What the papers said
The reporter in the Burnley Express said 'There was a lot of roughness imported to the game with both sides being to blame'.

North End's first Football League game was played at Deepdale against their Lancashire rivals Burnley.

The Lilywhites raced into an early two-goal lead with Fred DEWHURST scoring after less than two minutes play, as he raced through a static Clarets' defence to shoot past Smith. Many sources claim this to be the League's first goal but as the game only kicked-off at 3.50pm due to Burnley's late arrival, this is not so. Within a minute of that goal, Jack GORDON finished off a flowing movement to put North End 2-0 up. The Clarets came under further pressure and were fortunate not to concede a third goal as Dewhurst and Sandy Robertson both went close with long range efforts.

Eventually the visitors clawed themselves back into the game. On 21 minutes they reduced the arrears when Pat GALLACHER scored a fine opportunist goal, following good work by Keenan.

Jack Gordon

North End thought they had scored a third goal just before half-time when one of Gordon's pin-point crosses was headed home by Dewhurst but the referee had already blown for a free-kick to Burnley following an infringement off the ball. Burnley had the better of the play during the early stages of the second-half and Trainer was forced to turn over a long range shot from Friel. The North End keeper also kept out a powerful header from Tait as the visitors went in search of an equaliser.

However, it was North End who scored the game's next goal when Dewhurst's pass left ROSS with just Smith to beat which he did with ease. Preston's 'Little Demon' ROSS netted his second and North End's fourth following further good work by Dewhurst.

Burnley were now limited to shooting from long range and though Trainer needed two attempts to save Friel's well-struck shot midway through the half, it was North End who went further ahead. The Lilywhite's captain Fred DEWHURST capped a fine display by shooting home from the edge of the area to make the score 5-1. Brady and Tait forced Trainer into making a couple of good saves before in the final minute of the game, the visitors mounted a final attack from which POLAND scored the Clarets' second goal.

The final score meant that the Lilywhites had got off to a flying start. Little did they know, that they would not only remain unbeaten in the League, but would win the FA Cup to go in the record books as the first-ever winners of the 'double'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 22nd September 1888

Wanderers decline to play ninety minutes!

Bolton's poor start to the first season of League football - defeats by Derby County (Home 3-6) and Burnley (Home 3-4) - detracted from the interest for this game, so there were only around 5,000 spectators present at the kick-off.

Yet it was the Wanderers who could have taken the lead in the opening minute of the game, when Davenport put Barbour clear, but he scooped the ball narrowly wide of Trainer's left-hand upright. Again the visitors pressed and Trainer was forced to punch clear Brogan's powerful shot. North End had a 'goal' disallowed when Drummond was adjudged offside after shooting home from Gordon's defence-splitting pass. Bolton hit back and Roberts, taking a neat pass from Weir, shot just over the bar. As the first-half drew to a close, both sides had opportunities to take the lead.

Drummond's powerfully struck shot beat Harrison but Weir's spectacular goal-line clearance saved the day, whilst at the other end, Brogan put the ball past Trainer only to see it bounce inches agonisingly wide of the target.

North End took the lead nine minutes into the second-half when, following some neat inter-passing by DRUMMOND and Thomson, the former shot past the outstretched arms of the diving Harrison. The goal gave North End great encouragement and three minutes later a cross from Jimmy Ross fell to the unmarked GORDON, who doubled the home side's lead.

G. Drummond

The Wanderers were stung into action and Brogan's powerhouse of a shot forced Trainer into turning the ball behind for a corner. Minutes later, David Weir, the Bolton centre-half, struck a powerful shot that bounded from Trainer's hands and onto the underside of the bar before going out of play off the onrushing Brogan. With just a quarter of an hour remaining, WEIR reduced the arrears when another well-struck shot hit the unsuspecting Holmes and wrong-footed James Trainer.

The game was now end to end and after Dewhurst's shot had been well saved by Harrison, Brogan shot across the face of the North End goal with Trainer out of position. Late in the game, Preston went 3-1 up when Harrison failed to hold a shot from Ross and GORDON following up, poked the ball over the line.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Bolton Wanderers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Gordon 2 Drummond)
Bolton W (Weir)

Attendance
5,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Howarth R.Holmes A.Robertson
D.Russell J.Graham J.Gordon J.Ross
S.Thomson F.Dewhurst G.Drummond
Bolton Wanderers
C.Harrison B.Robinson D.Jones P.Bullough
D.Weir R.Roberts J.Brogan J.Davenport
A.Barbour J.Milne H.Tyrer

Before the ball had been returned to the centre-spot, the referee blew for full-time but then realised he had blown five minutes too soon! On discovering his mistake, he called the Wanderers back, but they declined to return to the fray!

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 24th November 1888

Jimmy Ross 'double' seals Wanderers' fate.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 2 Preston North End 5

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Weir Brogan)
PNE (J.Ross 2 Robertson Goodall Dewhurst)

Attendance
10,000

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
S.Gillam B.Robinson W.Flitcroft F.Dyer
J.Scowcroft R.Roberts J.Brogan J.Davenport
D.Weir J.Milne H.Tyrer
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Howarth R.Holmes A.Robertson
W.Graham J.Graham J.Gordon J.Ross
J.Goodall F.Dewhurst S.Thomson

The home side had the advantage of a very strong wind at their backs in the first-half and almost took the lead with the very first attack of the game. A mistake by North End full-back Holmes gave Brogan a chance, but he shot high over the bar with only Trainer to beat.

The Wanderers had another early chance but Weir shot straight into the hands of James Trainer. Yet despite this early pressure, North End almost went ahead when Goodall's shot was saved by Gillam, though to be honest, the Bolton keeper knew little about it! Play then swung from end to end as North End battled bravely against the strong wind. Ross shot from fully 35 yards, the ball beating Gillam in the Bolton goal but going inches past his right-hand upright. North End deservedly took the lead after 35 minutes when Thomson's cross was met on the volley by ROSS, his shot beating Gillam all ends up.

Preston North End 1888 Team

Bolton hit back and after Brogan had shot narrowly wide, WEIR beat Trainer from close range. In the closing moments of the first-half, Milne headed just over and Weir inches wide, before James BROGAN gave the home side the lead with a splendid individual goal, beating four North End defenders in a mazy dribble.

With the wind now in their favour, North End pressed hard from the restart and Gillam was forced into making fine saves from both Ross and Gordon. Bolton were rarely seen as an attacking force though on one chance they did create, Davenport failed to take advantage of a slip by Trainer. ROSS then scored his and North End's second goal from close range, following up a Dewhurst shot which Gillam failed to hold. ROBERTSON put North End ahead with a long range shot which caught the wind and looped over the head of the stranded Bolton keeper.

Two minutes later, the visitors extended their lead when Gordon's cross fell to the feet of Bolton full-back Robinson. He was too slow in clearing his lines, allowing DEWHURST to gain possession and put North End 4-2 up. With the Bolton defence beginning to flag, it seemed only a matter of time before North End went further ahead. Gillam saved superbly from Ross and Flitcroft headed a Thomson shot off the line.

With the light fading, GOODALL eventually scored a fifth goal for North End, though Bolton captain David Weir had the game's best chance, forcing Trainer to kick the ball clear.

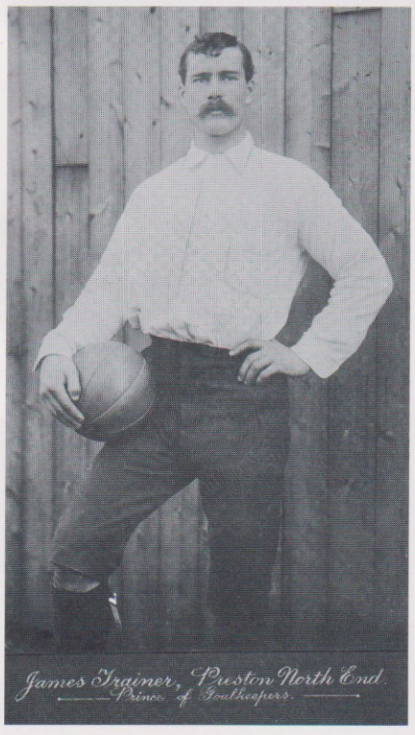
PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 29th December 1888

Goodall special settles first League meeting with Rovers.

North End started the game up the incline, against the sun and attacked from the outset. The game was under two minutes old when Dewhurst's centre was headed from under his own bar by James Southworth and then, a minute later, Goodall had a powerful shot well saved by Holden.

Rovers gradually got into the game and Haresnape failed to convert an accurate cross from Townley. Then the Rovers winger saw his shot deflected for a corner off the boot of Howarth with Trainer out of position. Then a long cross by Forrest cleared the North End defence and fell to Haresnape, but the Blackburn player pulled his shot across the face of the goal. Midway through the first-half, Jack Southworth struck the underside of the crossbar and as the ball rebounded into play, Haresnape with an acrobatic overhead kick put the ball inches wide. Townley too had a clear cut chance but shot well wide.



After being under pressure for much of the first-half, North End had the chance to take the lead, but despite some nice interplay between Goodall, Ross and Gordon inside the box, Holden wasn't really tested.

North End improved after the interval and after good approach work by Gordon and Goodall, Ross shot narrowly wide. A minute later, Russell's long range shot scraped the top of Holden's crossbar, whilst at the other end, Walton finished an attack by rolling a shot against the foot of Trainer's left-hand post.

Rovers almost broke the deadlock on the hour-mark but Brown's well-placed header which beat Trainer, was headed out from under his own bar by Holmes.The North End full-back came to the rescue again minutes later when Douglas's long range shot was cleared off the line with Trainer a spectator!

There were just ten minutes left to play when Goodall was put clear by Ross but he delayed his shot, allowing Almond to turn the ball back to his keeper. Ross then shot straight into the arms of Holden before North End took the lead. Gordon beat Forbes for speed before crossing for GOODALL to volley into the roof of the net. In a carbon copy move two minutes later, the North End forward's shot struck the crossbar whilst Thomson shot straight at Holden when it would have been easier to score.

Just before the final whistle, Trainer saved the day for North End, keeping out a close range shot from Walton - as the ball ran loose, Howarth hacked it to safety.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Goodall)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
9,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Howarth R.Holmes A.Robertson
D.Russell J.Graham J.Gordon J.Ross
J.Goodall F.Dewhurst S.Thomson
Blackburn Rovers
W.Holden James Southworth J.Forbes
J.Douglas W.Almond J.Forrest R.Haresnape
N.Walton Jack Southworth J.Brown W.Townley

What the papers said
The Lancashire Evening Post reporter commented 'The long looked-forward to meeting of the North End and Rovers in a League match has come off at last and the Rovers are to be congratulated on the fight they made. From the start to the finish, the Blackburnians played a most determined game and being in better condition than their opponents gave the Deepdalians such a putting-up as they have not experienced for sometime back'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Thursday 5th February 1891

Clarets run ragged by rampant North End.

Final Score
Preston North End 7 Burnley 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (J.Ross 2 Campbell 2 N.Ross Gordon Gallacher)
Burnley (-)

Attendance
3,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Holmes N.Ross R.Kelso
G.Drummond W.Stewart J.Gordon
J.Ross W.Campbell B.Crossan
H.Gallacher
Burnley
A.Kaye J.Walker A.Lang W.McFettridge
J.Nash J.Keenan R.Haresnape
J.Brodie C.Lambie A.Stewart J.Hill

What the papers said
The Burnley Express reporter said 'The secret of North End's success was that the men played with determination and combination while Burnley were half-hearted and lost their heads when, after their best efforts at resistance, their opponents put on goal after goal. Proud Preston will not be the only team which will defeat them by a majority of seven if they continue to play like this'.

Prior to this game, played on a Thursday afternoon, all the North End players were up before the committee. James Brandon and William Hendry had their contracts torn up, whilst the rest of the team were told in no uncertain terms that the club meant to win the League Championship. If they did not remain in peak fitness and conduct themselves so as not to bring discredit upon the club, they too would be shown the door!

Nick Ross

In the opening minutes of the game, Burnley's Claude Lambie broke free but his shot from all of 35 yards flew harmlessly past James Trainer's left-hand post. North End then went to work, passing the ball from player to player with machine-like precision. Several corners were forced but the Burnley defence stood firm, despite a number of long range shots from the likes of Jimmy Ross and Geordie Drummond.

North End took the lead after 14 minutes, following a foul on Nick Ross by McFettridge. Drummond rolled the resultant free-kick into the path of Nick ROSS whose powerfully struck shot gave Kaye in the Burnley goal no chance whatsoever. Within minutes of that strike, the home side scored twice in the shape of GORDON and Jimmy ROSS, both goals being scored from close range after mistakes in the heart of the Clarets' defence. North End then sat back and the visitors had a couple of chances towards the end of the first-half to reduce the arrears but first Lambie and then Stewart shot straight at Trainer when well placed.

Early in the second-half, Burnley forced three corners in succession but these came to nothing and virtually the rest of the game was played in the Burnley half. North End had a 'goal' disallowed when Bill Campbell was adjudged to have fouled Burnley keeper Kay when challenging for a Gallacher cross.

North End eventually extended their lead midway through the half when a Jimmy ROSS shot grazed the inside of Kaye's right-hand post. CAMPBELL added a fifth directly afterwards when he headed home Gordon's cross. As the Burnley defence began to tire, the Lilywhites scored two further goals through CAMPBELL and GALLACHER, both the result of some enterprising wing play by Jack Gordon.

As the game drew to a close, Burnley had their best chance as Hill played in Lambie and though he rounded Trainer, he rolled the ball wide of the open goal!

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 21st September 1891

Ten-men North End trounce Clarets.

North End had lost three of their first four matches including a 2-0 defeat against the Clarets at Turf Moor prior to this fifth game of the season.

Though the Lilywhites had the better of the early exchanges, they found Jack Hillman, a future England international goalkeeper, in fine form as he saved well struck shots from both Drummond and Gordon. At the other end, James Trainer produced an excellent save from Nicol, whilst Bowes shot straight into the Welsh internationals hands when well placed. Place had the chance to open the scoring but lifted his shot high over the bar and Stewart dallied when put through by Hill. The Burnley winger then beat three Preston defenders before bringing another good save out of Trainer.

It was against the run of play when North End took the lead after 35 minutes, GORDON racing into the area, held off a challenge by Lang and fired past Hillman.Ten minutes later, someone in the main stand blew a whistle as the ball was travelling to Hillman. Thankfully, the Burnley keeper caught the ball but players on both sides were all under the impression that the interval had arrived! After a long stoppage, the game continued and in the time added on, North End scored a second goal through STEWART.

North End extended their lead early in the second-half when Hillmam thinking SANDERS' shot was passing outside his right-hand post, did not make an attempt to save it until it was too late!

Burnley couldn't find a way back into the game and midway through the second-half, TOWIE shot a fourth goal for the home team. North End didn't let up and soon afterwards GORDON added a fifth for the Lilywhites with a shot from the most acute of angles.

Jack Gordon

The Clarets pulled a goal back when following good work out on the left by Hill, this resulted in NICOL beating Trainer from the edge of the penalty area with a fast rising shot. Burnley pressed hard and during a short spell of sustained pressure came close to scoring when both Hill and McLardie forced Trainer into making hurried saves. With time running out, North End's William Stewart deliberately kicked Nicol and was promptly and correctly sent-off by the referee.

Though down to ten-men, North End kept their opponents at bay and won a most remarkable match 5-1. On the final whistle, fans of both sides began to fight in front of the main stand but an extra policeman had been sent for and the unruly scenes quelled!

Final Score
Preston North End 5 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Drummond Stewart Sanders Towie Gordon)
Burnley (Nicol)

Attendance
4,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Howarth R. Holmes
W.McKenna M.Sanders W.Stewart
J.Gordon J.Ross T.Towie G.Drummond
H.Gallacher
Burnley
J.Hillman N.Jeffreys A.Lang
W.McFettridge D.Spiers A.Stewart T.Nicol
A.McLardie W.Bowes W.Place jnr J.Hill

What the papers said
The Burnley Express and Advertiser's reporter wrote 'After a fairly eventful first-half, neither the spectators nor the players recovered their spirits and the second-half of the game was entirely devoid of skill. The referee Mr Lewis got all the players together and warned them of the consequences of not trying'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 28th November 1891

North Ends beat First Division leaders.

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Bolton Wanderers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Becton, Jones og. Gordon pen, Ross)
Bolton W (-)

Attendance
5,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Holmes G.Drummond
J.Sharp M.Sanders W.Stewart J.Gordon
J.Ross F.Becton T.Towie H.Gallacher
Bolton Wanderers
J.Sutcliffe J.Somerville D.Jones A.Paton
H.Gardiner R.Roberts J.Munro J.Turner
J.Cassidy J.McNee D.McFettridge

Bolton Wanderers arrived at Deepdale after winning the season's first meeting between the two clubs and as leaders of the First Division. Following days of heavy rain, pools of water were to be seen on all parts of the pitch with a boisterous wind blowing from goal to goal.

North End kicked off against the wind and from the manner in which the ball stuck on the heavy pitch, it was evident that good football would be at a discount Turner almost gave the visitors the lead but his long range shot stuck in the mud with Trainer well beaten. Cassidy then fed McFettridge but his shot scraped the outside of the post.

Preston's first chance fell to Gallacher but instead of shooting, he tried an ambitious pass to Becton which was cut out by Jones. Sutcliffe in the Bolton goal was forced to fingertip Gordon's shot round the post, whilst at the other end, Preston's Welsh international keeper Trainer fisted out Cassidy's long range shot from under the bar. The visitors then forced four corners in succession but nothing came of them. Both teams were having great difficulty in maintaining their footholds as the wind and rain increased. Cassidy came close again for the Wanderers but the North End defence held firm and at half-time the game remained goalless.

The second-half was only two minutes old when North End took the lead. Stewart centred to BECTON who took the ball round Somerville before placing it wide of Sutcliffe. The Bolton keeper then made a fine save from Ross before North End winger Gallacher completely missed his kick in front of an open goal! Towie should also have scored three minutes later but he delayed his shot, allowing Jones to get in a tackle. Sutcliffe then made two good saves from shots by Becton and Ross. Midway through the half, however, he was beaten, as his own defender JONES, hampered by Becton, put the ball past his despairing dive. North End continued to press forward and extended their lead when Wanderers' full-back Somerville was adjudged to have fouled Ross in the penalty area. From the resultant spot-kick, GORDON sent Sutcliffe the wrong way to make it 3-0. Bolton did have a chance to pull one back but McFettridge shot well over the bar when handily placed.

In the final minute of the game, North End scored a fourth goal when Becton despite being fouled by Paton got his cross in to ROSS who beat Sutcliffe with ease.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 26th September 1896

North End 'nick it' in eight-goal thriller.

Having beaten Sunderland 5-3 in their first home game of the season, North End repeated the scoreline in this Deepdale Derby against Burnley.

The game had only been in progress a few minutes when Clarets' keeper Tatham, having cleared the ball off the toes of North End debutant Alex Findlay, fell to the ground clutching his leg. He continued after treatment but was soon in the wars again when receiving a kick in the chest following a challenge from Brown. Obviously still groggy, he was soon picking the ball out of the net when FINDLAY cut inside Nicol and shot into the far corner.

Nicol had been reinstated in the Burnley team just prior to the kick-off, having apologised for his misbehaviour and for which he had been suspended. It was Nicol who created the Clarets' equaliser with a long ball over the top of the North End defence for HILL to run on to and slip past the advancing Trainer. The Burnley full-back was also involved in the game's next goal when five minutes before the interval, he missed his kick, allowing BROWN to nip in and squeeze the ball between Tatham and the post. The second-half was delayed by ten minutes to allow Tatham, the Burnley keeper, to receive further treatment.

When the game got underway, Tatham brought off a fine save from Brown but minutes later, he was beaten by PRATT, who headed home a deep cross by Henderson. PRATT scored his second and Preston's fourth minutes later, cutting in from the wing and hitting the ball across Tatham and into the net, off the far post. Burnley went straight to the other end and ROBERTSON reduced the arrears with a well taken goal following good work by Bowes. The Clarets came close to scoring a third goal but it was Alex BROWN who netted the game's next goal, beating Tatham to Moses Sanders pin-point cross.

Tatham then left the field and Walter Place senior took his place in goal. He had made a couple of good saves when Taylor handled the ball in the area - the referee having no hesitation in awarding North End a penalty.

Sanders took the kick, but Place leapt high to his left to turn the ball over the bar. The referee had spotted an infringement and ordered the kick to be re-taken but again Place saved Sanders' spot-kick!

Despite being down to ten-men, Burnley went straight to the other end and CHAMBERS scored the final goal of the game from Hill's astute pass.

Final Score
Preston North End 5 Burnley 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Pratt 2 Brown 2 Findlay)
Burnley (Hill Robertson Chambers)

Attendance
7,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Trainer R.Holmes A.Tait R.Blyth
M.Sanders W.Orr A.Findlay T.Pratt
A.Brown D.Boyd A.Henderson
Burnley
W.Tatham T.Nicol T.McLintock W.Place snr
J.Brae J.Taylor J.Chambers J.Hill
H.Robertson W.Bowes W.Place jnr

What the papers said
The Burnley Express reporter wrote 'Judged from all accounts, Burnley were entitled to something more than they got. On all hands it is admitted, even from Preston sources, that Burnley were the better team'.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 15th April 1899

Late goal helps North End avoid relegation.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 2 Preston North End 2

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Hurst Blackburn)
PNE (Russell Murray)

Attendance
6,000

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
R.Thompson T.Brandon R.Crompton
T.Booth R.Haworth P.Chambers
W.Williams T.Briercliffe B.Hulse
F.Blackburn D.Hirst
Preston North End
P.McBride R.Holmes A.Tait W.Eccleston
D.Russell P.McIntyre P.Murray T.Pratt
A.Brown A.Gara L.Halsall

Without an away win all season, North End travelled to Ewood Park for their final match away from Deepdale, fighting for their First Division survival.

North End had the better of the early exchanges with Halsall getting free on the left, cutting inside Brandon and forcing Thompson to turn the ball behind for a corner. Brown and Gara combined well but the latter's shot was sliced well wide of the target. Blackburn's first real chance of the match came following a mistake by Bob Holmes. The North End full-back misjudged a tackle, allowing Tommy Booth the Rovers captain a free run on goal but he squandered the opportunity.

Preston hit back and in one attack, Rovers' young keeper Thompson was forced to head the ball to safety, at the same time, flooring Gara, who had scored twice in the recent 4-0 defeat of West Bromwich Albion. Eventually, North End took the lead from a Halsall corner. The ball was played into the six-yard box and though Thompson got his hands to it, he couldn't hold on and Brown thumped the ball against an upright. From the rebound, Dave RUSSELL, who had gone up for the corner headed the ball home.

After that, the home side began to take control and just two minutes before the interval, deservedly drew level when HIRST scored with an acrobatic overhead kick. During the break, heavy rain fell, making conditions underfoot very tricky.

Preston defended in depth, preferring to hold on for the point the 1-1 scoreline would give them. But after 75 minutes, Blackburn took the lead with yet another spectacular goal. England international Fred BLACKBURN tried his luck from almost 40 yards and with the wind behind him, it carried the ball over McBride's head and into the roof of the net.

It looked like the end of the road for North End who struggled on gamely but with just four minutes to play, they forced a corner. Booth failed to clear Halsall's well-struck flag kick and MURRAY coming in at the far post, side-footed past Thompson, much to the delight of Preston's rain-soaked fans. Even then, North End's Scottish international keeper Peter McBride was forced into making a magnificent one-handed save from Hulse after which the referee blew for full-time.

The point gained from this draw was priceless and coupled with Bolton's defeat at Bury and Sheffield Wednesday going down to Newcastle, North End staved off relegation.

Dave Russell

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 17th February 1900

Last gasp Henderson goal settles first Cup meeting with Rovers.

In the first-ever FA Cup meeting between these two great rivals, it was Blackburn Rovers who had the best of the early exchanges. Dunn kicked a Hirst header off the line and Eccleston was on hand to block the follow-up shot by Dewhurst.

North End's first attack saw Stevenson's shot on the turn well saved by Knowles, who was also called into action to keep out a spectacular lob by Pierce. Gara also came close for the home side before Murray's cross was headed inches wide of the target by Henderson. The same player then put a shot into the side netting as North End started to dominate the game. Jackie Pierce found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat but shot straight at Knowles.

Blackburn's Hulse, who had been forced to leave the field for treatment to an injured knee early in the game, managed to cross the ball for Dewhurst whose powerful header was well held by McBride. Whittaker also tested the North End keeper with a long range shot that the Scottish international turned over the bar.

As the first-half drew to a close, both Elliott and Murray had good opportunities to open the scoring but found Knowles equal to the task.

Early after the restart, Hirst outpaced Dunn but his shot hit the upright and flew to safety. Rovers' wing-half Howarth put the ball into the side-netting with only McBride to beat, whilst at the other end, Knowles was forced to turn Henderson's long range shot over the bar.

A free-kick awarded against Eccleston almost brought the game's first goal but Bob Crompton's fiercely struck shot scraped the outside of McBride's right-hand post. Rovers were now in the ascendancy and when Hirst went round McBride and rolled his shot towards the empty net, it seemed the visitors would take the lead. Fortunately for North End, McIntyre raced back to clear off the line.

With a draw looking odds on, a number of spectators started to leave the ground but with just minutes to play, North End scored the goal that took them into the third round and a home tie against Nottingham Forest.

The all was played out to the left where HENDERSON eluded Brandon's tackle and sent in a powerful shot on the run that gave Knowles in the Blackburn goal no chance whatsoever!

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Henderson)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
8,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.McBride H.Dunn R.Orrell W.Eccleston
P.McIntyre J.Elliott P.Murray A.Gara
J.Stevenson J.Pierce A.Henderson
Blackburn Rovers
A.Knowles T.Brandon R.Crompton
R.Howarth T.Booth A.Houlker A.Whittaker
B.Hulse J.Dewhurst F.Blackburn D.Hirst

What the papers said
Perseus, writing in the Lancashire Evening Post, said 'Cheerfulness pervaded the atmosphere today. Everyone was in excellent spirits under the influence of yesterday's tonic from the Cape and with the weather altogether favourable, the gates of Deepdale were thrown wide open in full confidence of the assembling of a gathering commensurate with the importance of so unique an event as the first English Cup tie between North End and Rovers.'

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 23rd November 1901

North End enjoy seaside stroll!

Final Score
Blackpool 1 Preston North End 4

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Foster)
PNE (Gara 2 Pratt Jack)

Attendance
6,000

Line-ups
Blackpool
J.Dorrington A.Boulton J.Scott
E.Threlfall H.Stirzaker J.Birchall
B.Birkett G.Anderson J.Foster L.Evans
P.Hardman
Preston North End
P.McBride J.McMahon R.Orrell
R.Howell M.Good J.Elliott J.Rogers
H.Wilcox A.Gara T.Pratt R.Jack

What the papers said

The reporter in the Blackpool Gazette and News wrote 'The football match at Bloomfield Road was something more than a struggle between two teams of 'socker' experts - it was an inter-municipal contest in which the rivalry existing between Preston and Blackpool was concentrated into an exhibition of our winter pastime'.

Preston's first-ever season in Divison Two of the Football League saw their first encounter in that competition with arch rivals Blackpool. Blomfield Road's biggest crowd of the season were hoping to see 'Proud Preston' come unstuck!

The Lilywhites had the better of the early exchanges, winning three corners in quick succession before GARA opened the scoring with a shot from the edge of the area. North End continued to press forward in search of a second goal and Rogers came close before Dorrington made a good save from Elliott.

Blackpool's first attack of note saw a Hardman free-kick well saved by North End's Scottish international keeper Peter McBride who dived low to his left to save the powerfully struck kick. Midway through the first-half, the Seasiders were awarded a penalty when McMahon was adjudged to have handled a cross by Birkett. Foster took the kick but McBride, who hardly had to move, turned the ball over the bar.Shortly before half-time, Dorrington was forced into making a couple of outstanding saves from Wilcox and Gara but was left helpless when following a goalmouth scramble, PRATT forced the ball over the line. There was still time for one last attack but when Gara found himself with only Dorrington to beat, he was adjudged offside. Blackpool started the second-half with a series of raids on the North End goal, but McBride dealt comfortably with what were in the main, long range efforts from Anderson and Evans. The Seasiders though did pull a goal back on the hour-mark when FOSTER beat McBride at the near post after good work by Evans.

The Seasiders' scorer was in trouble minutes later when after being tripped by Orrell, retaliated by a slight kick as he lay on the ground. The North Ends full-back then angered the home supporters, looking round for the referee and then commencing ostentatiously to rub his leg!

As the game wore on, the Blackpool players appeared to tire and with ten minutes to go, GARA extended the visitors lead. Dorrington then made a couple of good saves from Wilcox and Pratt before JACK completed the scoring from close range despite appeals for offside.

Though the Seasiders had chances to score, they were totally outplayed from first whistle to last - North End were so much quicker on the ball, that there seemed to be three white shirts to every tangerine one!

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 18th October 1902

Clarets pulverised in one-sided derby.

By 1902, when this game took place, both North End and Burnley found themselves in Division Two. After the early years of League football, where North End had dominated the Clarets, recent matches had been much closer.

There wasn't much between the teams during the opening half-an-hour with chances at both ends. North End should have taken the lead after eight minutes when Fenton found himself with only Wynne to beat but he delayed his shot, allowing the Burnley keeper to dive at his feet and smother the ball. On 17 minutes, Clarets' inside-forward McInnes shot straight at McBride when it seemed he must score.

The game's first goal came in the 33rd minute when the referee adjudged that Lockhart had handled the ball in the six-yard box as he came under a rather hefty challenge from Pratt. Harry WILCOX put the spot-kick hard and low to Wynne's right - the ball nestling in the back of the net before he had time to move. North End extended their lead just before half-time when Hunter's long range shot was too strong for the Burnley keeper WYNNE who was credited with an own goal. The goal came after a spell of sustained pressure by the Lilywhites who forced five corners in quick succession prior to Wynne's error.

McBride had been a virtual spectator in the first-half and so it continued after the interval as WALTON added a third goal for the home side after being put clear by Smith.

North End were well on top and had two 'goals' disallowed for offside before PRATT made it 4-0 after 70 minutes, cutting inside Ross and beating Wynne from an acute angle. The Burnley defenders didn't know which way to turn and it came as no surprise when WALTON scored hiss second goal of the game five minutes from time.Wynne made a couple of good saves in the dying moments of the game as Fenton and Smith tried to get their names on the scoresheet. Also Taylor came to his rescue as he headed Walton's first-time volley off the line as the Preston forward looked certain to complete his hat-trick.

Not surprisingly, the Clarets finished bottom of that season's Second Division table.

Final Score
Preston North End 5 Burnley 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Walton 2 Wilcox pen Pratt Wynne og)
Burnley (-)

Attendance
7,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.McBride J.McMahon R.Orrell R.Howell
J.Hunter G.Tod P.Smith H.Wilcox J.Walton
T.Pratt F.Fenton
Burnley
F.Wynne H.Ross G.Lockhart F.Barron
J.Taylor A.Dixon T.Morrison A.McInnes
C.Hogan J.Crawford E.Lee

What the papers said
The Sportsman writing in the Burnley Express said 'The Burnley defenders have seldom had a busier time. There was no keeping back the Prestonians, who played better football than has been seen at Deepdale this season'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 30th April 1904

North End beat Seasiders to win Second Division Championship.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Blackpool 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (P.J.Smith)
Blackpool (-)

Attendance
8,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
H.Taylor J.Derbyshire T.Rodway
J.McLean J.Hunter W.Lyon R.Bond
J.Wilson P.J.Smith J.Bell R.Bourne
Blackpool
A.Hull R.Birkett J.Scott E.Threlfall
J.Parkinson T.Wolstenholme
W.Anderton J.Rooke J.Carthy
G.Anderson M.McEwan

Five days before this game, Woolwich Arsenal, who were top of the Second Division had to beat Burslem Port Vale at home to win the Championship, but they were held to a goalless draw. That result, along with Bolton taking a point off third-placed Manchester United, not only guaranteed Preston promotion, but also meant if they beat local rivals Blackpool, they would win the Second Division Championship.

North End took time to settle and though Wilson came close with a header which Hull in the Blackpool goal was forced to turn over the bar, the Seasiders had the better of the opening exchanges. Rooke and Anderton provided an opening for Carthy but Bert Taylor dived to his left to turn the ball round the post. Blackpool had another chance to score the game's first goal after 27 minutes but Bell miskicked with only Taylor to beat after being put through by McEwan.

Preston gradually got back into this most important of games and just before half-time, they scored the goal they had been looking for. Good work by Bond and McLean allowed Wilson to find Bell, who strongly but fairly shouldered his marker off before passing the ball to Percy SMITH, whose shot from 20 yards rifled into the top right-hand corner of Hull's net.

The second-half saw play swing from end to end but there weren't too many clear cut chances for either side to score. Blackpool's best chance fell to Anderson on the hour-mark but with the goal at his mercy, he contrived to put the ball wide of the target. North End had a couple of chances to extend their lead when Dickie Bond worked his way into the Blackpool penalty area before firing across the face of the goal. Minutes later, Bourne's cross to the far post was met by the head of Percy Smith who knocked it back for McLean to shoot. Sadly for North End, his goalbound effort was deflected behind off the referee!

At the end of the game, fireworks were lit and the St Vincent's Boy Band played as North End captain John Bell and goalscorer Percy Smith were carried off shoulder high by exuberant fans who had spilled onto the Deepdale playing surface.

The goal was Percy Smith's 26th league goal of the season, whilst the club in winning the Second Division Championship, achieved a record points total, for the time, of 50.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Friday 1st January 1909

McBride penalty save helps North End secure point.

The severe weather in the early part of the week had caused the Ewood Park club considerable anxiety but a couple of days before the game, a gang of thirty men had cleared the snow and ice off both the pitch and the terraces.

North End started the game with ten men as Holdsworth, who lived in Southport, hadn't arrived on time and they didn't want to introduce Henderson who was waiting to make his debut.

Rovers started brightly and Aitkenhead sent in a powerful shot which McBride saved at the second attempt. Holdsworth arrived some ten minutes after the game had started and shortly afterwards, North End took the lead. A corner taken by Sanderson found its way through to BOND, who shot high into the roof of the Rovers goal.

McBride then distinguished himself by saving from both Davies and Cameron as Rovers pressed strongly for an equaliser. The North End keeper was in fine form but even he could do nothing about Rovers' equaliser after 24 minutes. Latheron's cross was missed completely by Cameron but the ball travelled to KYLE whose first time shot beat McBride's despairing dive.

Within minutes of drawing level, Rovers were awarded a penalty when late arrival Holdsworth brought down Aitkenhead after the Rovers' winger had threaded his way into the North End penalty area. Crompton fired the spot-kick hard and low but McBride diving to his right, turned the ball round the post!

Rovers dominated the remainder of the first-half, Cameron shooting over when well placed and Davies having a shot turned round the post. As the half drew to a close, McBride was fouled on the goal-line as he went to catch a Chapman cross. During the second-half, Rovers created the better openings, though they almost took the lead from a long range shot by Chapman which McBride failed to gather cleanly. Aitkenhead also came close, his header forcing McBride to make yet another first-class save.

At the other end, a mazy dribble by Dawson took him past Houlker, Bradshaw and Suttie but as he shaped to shoot, a tackle by Bob Crompton saved the day for the home side. North End's only other real chance of note in the second period came when Percy Smith's shot was acrobatically turned over the bar by Ashcroft.

However, as the game wore on, only the brilliance of Peter McBride kept North End in the game as Rovers went in search of the winner.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 1 Preston North End 1

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Kyle)
PNE (Bond)

Attendance
30,000

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
J.Ashcroft R.Crompton T.Suttie A.Houlker
G.Chapman W.Bradshaw E.Latheron
W.Cameron W.Davies A.Kyle W.Aitkenhead
Preston North End
P.McBride J.Winchester T.Rodway
E.Holdsworth P.J.Smith W.Lyon R.Bond
J.Wilson R.Smith C.Dawson W.Sanderson

What the papers said
'Ranger' writing in the Lancashire Evening Post said 'All things considered, the draw was a fair result of the game, which considering the handicap under which the men laboured was a very fine one, both sides showing splendid methods and great spirit. True, both should have had more goals but the wonder is that mistakes did not run greater riot!'

PRESTON NORTH END F.C.
1908 - 9.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Monday 27th December 1909

Record crowd sees North End fight back to take the points.

Deepdale had never housed such a crowd as it did for this derby match against Blackburn Rovers. The entire game was played with fans hugging the touchline and midway through the first-half, spectators spilled on to the pitch as barriers in the north-west corner of the ground broke. There were hundreds of people unable to gain admission to the ground, though some of these scaled telegraph poles to get whatever view of the game they could.

In one of the most exciting of North End versus Rovers derby games, both sides had early opportunities to open the scoring. North End's McLean was put clear by Mountenay but Ashcroft took the ball off his toes as he attempted to go round the keeper. Blackburn's Latheron headed narrowly wide from six yards out after Murray's cross had eluded Smith and Holdsworth. Rovers then enjoyed a period of supremacy with both Cameron and Aitkenhead bringing good saves out of McBride. North End's Scottish international keeper then kept out a Garbutt header with his feet after the winger had timed his run to meet Murray's cross with perfection.

Blackburn took the lead just before half-time when CAMERON held off the challenge of Smith before shooting past the advancing McBride. It could have been 2-0 moments later but Aitkenhead miskicked in front of an open goal with the North End keeper out of position.

Rovers continued where they'd left off in the first-half but found McBride in inspired form. However, the visitors' pressure finally paid off on the hour mark when CAMERON netted his and Rovers' second goal, converting a deep cross from Walmsley.

The North End defenders disputed the goal, feeling that the Blackburn forward and barged Smith out of the way before shooting past McBride.

It was now an uphill struggle for North End and they must have felt that it wasn't going to be their day when Holdsworth outjumped Ashcroft to head home, only to have been adjudged to have fouled the Blackburn keeper.

North End eventually pulled a goal back after 72 minutes when BANNISTER sidefooted home Platt's cross. Ten minutes later, Preston drew level when Aitkenhead back helping his defence was harshly adjudged to have handled the ball. Up stepped Tom RODWAY to blast the ball past Rovers' keeper Ashcroft.

A minute later, Rovers were effectively down to ten men when the unfortunate Aitkenhead was injured and though he stayed on the field, he was a virtual passenger. North End pushed forward in search of a winner and were rewarded when David McLEAN shot home close range to complete a remarkable comeback.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackburn Rovers 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Bannister Rodway pen McLean)
Blackburn R (Cameron 2)

Attendance
33,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.McBride J.Winchester T.Rodway
E.Holdsworth P.J.Smith W.Lyon J.Platt
J.Bannister D.McLean A.Mountenay
W.Sanderson
Blackburn Rovers
J.Ashcroft A.Cowell T.Suttie A.Walmsley
G.Chapman W.Bradshaw W.Garbutt
E.Latheron W.Cameron W.Aitkenhead
R.Murray

What the papers said
Perseus in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End were just deserving of their victory, if only for their greater deadliness in front of goal'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tuesday 26th December 1911

Points shared in Christmas derby.

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Blackburn Rovers 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Green Thompson)
Blackburn R (Simpson Clenell)

Attendance
22,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
H.Taylor G.Baker T.Rodway J.Johnston
T.Galloway W.Wareing J.Hall
J.Thompson B.Green W.Kirby H.Danson
Blackburn Rovers
J.Ashcroft R.Crompton T.Suttie
A.Walmsley P.Smith W.Bradshaw
J.Simpson J.Orr W.Aitkenhead J.Clennell
W.Cameron

What the papers said
Perseus of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'There may have been more high-class struggles in the long past than that of yesterday, but certainly there has not been one that made a greater demand upon the men physically - in fact, it was a matter for wonderment that such pace was kept up under conditions that were all against ninety minutes hard unsparing football'.

Though North End were lying in the lower reaches of the First Division at the time of this Christmas derby game against Blackburn Rovers, they were in high spirits, having beaten league leaders Newcastle United 2-1 three days earlier. Though Rovers were well up the table, they hadn't beaten North End since New Year's Day 1901.

The game was only three minutes old when North End's William Kirby went down under a reckless challenge by Rovers' England international full-back Bob Crompton. Claims for a penalty were waved away as Danson picked up the loose ball and shot into the side netting with Ashcroft beaten. From the resultant goal-kick, Jimmy Johnston, who was making his Preston debut, returned the ball into the goalmouth. Rovers' keeper Jimmy Ashcroft got his hands to it but couldn't hold on to the greasy ball. It fell to Ben GREEN who turned the ball into the empty net.

The home side's joy was short-lived as Rovers equalised with their first attack of the game. North End centre-half Tom Rodway failed to control a long through ball by Walmsley and could only watch in horror as SIMPSON curled the ball round a static Taylor.

Midway through the first-half, Blackburn's William Bradshaw saw his shot cleared off the line by Wareing. The North End wing-half was also instrumental in his side's next chance, playing in Kirby, whose shot scraped the outside of Ashcroft's right-hand post.

Rovers took the lead after 26 minutes when CLENELL forced home Simpson's cross despite being under heavy pressure.

Just before the interval, North End's former favourite Percy Smith was injured under a hefty challenge by Green but he recovered sufficiently to head clear from Thompson's cross as the referee's whistle blew for half-time.

Only three minutes of the second-half had been played when Bob THOMPSON levelled the scores for North End. Kirby's pin-point cross found the Preston No.8 completely unmarked on the edge of the box and he volleyed the ball past Ashcroft. Both teams now went all out for the winner and though Green got the ball into the Rovers' net, he was adjudged to have strayed offside.

Despite a clash between Rodway and Simpson late in the game, the derby was played in excellent spirit and both sets of supporters went home happy in the knowledge that no side really deserved to lose.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Thursday 10th April 1913

Points shared in promotion dogfight.

With both sides pushing hard for promotion to the First Division, North End decided to put back the kick-off until 5.40pm. But in the dying stages of the game it was impossible to follow the ball and as the crowd dispersed, they were brilliantly illuminated by scores of motor cars which filled the spare ground between the back of the main stand and Deepdale Road!

It brought back unhappy memories to North End fans of some twelve months earlier when in the twilight, Peter McBride lost sight of Stirling's shot in Middlesbrough's 3-0 win and the Lilywhites descended into Division Two.

Fortunately in this derby clash, there was no such untoward event and a game of grave importance to both clubs ended in a draw.

Heavy rain throughout the first-half meant that the pitch was slippery and the ball greasy. Both goalkeepers came under pressure in the opening exchanges with Toone saving well from a Hodgson free-kick and Dawson tipping over an Alf Common header. Burnley's left-half Charlton was lucky to remain on the pitch on a couple of occasions when with Halliwell and Green respectively through on goal, he brought them down from behind. A stricter referee would have had no hesitation in giving him his marching orders.

North End's Joe Halliwell had atrocious luck when in quick succession, he hit the bar and then the right-hand upright with Jerry Dawson beaten. The Burnley keeper had just made an outstanding save from a hard rising shot by Barlow when he gifted North End the lead.

A right-wing centre by Billy LUKE was helped into his own net by the Clarets' keeper and shortly afterwards, Halliwell shot into the side-netting with only Dawson to beat.

North End continued to swing the ball about in the second-half and wingers Luke and Barlow had the beating of the Burnley full-backs time and time again. Unfortunately for Preston, the chances that were created were not snapped up and eventually Burnley got back into the game.

The Clarets had missed a great opportunity to draw level, when Bert Freeman headed over the top with only Toone to beat. Seconds later, however, they did score when MOSSCROP bundled the ball into the net from close range.

The rest of the game belonged to Burnley and they came close again five minutes from time when Hodgson beat two North End defenders, before curling a shot narrowly wide.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Luke)
Burnley (Hodgson)

Attendance
25,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.Toone C.McFadyen T.Rodway
E.Holdsworth J.McCall G.Dawson W.Luke
B.Green J.Halliwell A.Common G.Barlow
Burnley
J.Dawson C.Jones D.Taylor G.Halley
W.McLaren T.Charlton E.Mosscrop R.Lindley
B.Freeman E.Hodgson W.Husband

What the papers said
Perseus in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Both sides would have played better had less followed upon the heels of defeat. They could not have put more sheer grimness into their play but they could have made a heavier call on the pure arts of the game'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 26th April 1913

North End top, Seasiders bottom!

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Blackpool 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Marshall Halliwell)
Blackpool (Charles)

Attendance
25,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
H.Taylor C.McFadyen T.Rodway
E.Holdsworth J.McCall G.Dawson
J.Morley J.Marshall J.Halliwell
A.Common G.Barlow
Blackpool
W.Fiske H.Millership J.Jones L.Thorpe
J.Connor R.Booth J.Charles J.Dollins
G.Wilson W.Gillow F.Pagnam

Throughout this season, North End and Burnley had been neck and neck in the race for the Second Division Championship and if the Clarets had won their game in hand at home to Barnsley the previous Wednesday, then this game against Blackpool would have seen the Championship hinge on the result.

As it was, North End, relegated from the top flight at the end of the previous season, were already assured of the title, whilst Blackpool were rooted to the foot of the table!

Though the game was robbed of its' importance, both sets of players gave of their best, to ensure that the occasion didn't turn into a typical end of season game.

In the first-half, North End played against a very stiff breeze and this seemed to help reduce the number of scoring chances that they created.

The signing of Alf Common not only created huge interest in the town but it also lifted other members of the team to know that players of his quality were brought in. It was he who came closest for Preston midway through the first-half but his powerful header was turned onto the post by Fiske and then cleared into the crowd by Thorpe.

The Seasiders' best chance of a disappointing first-half came in the 44th minute when following McFadyen's miskick, Wilson was left with only Taylor to beat. However, as he shaped to shoot he was well tackled by Tom Rodway who saved the day for North End.

Within two minutes of the restart, North End took the lead. Playing with the wind at their backs, McCall found Barlow, whose cross saw both Marshall and Halliwell race for the ball but it was HALLIWELL who got their first to give Fiske in the Blackpool goal no chance whatsoever. Six minutes later, MARSHALL deservedly got on the scoresheet when Morley laid the ball back to him and from fully 25 yards he unleashed a powerful shot that hit the underside of the bar before nestling in the back of Fiske's net.

Blackpool then made a concerted effort to reduce the arrears and CHARLES pulled a goal back for the visitors when he outstripped Rodway and Holdsworth before firing past Taylor.

North End could have gone 3-1 up in the closing stages of the game but Fiske made the save of the day from Joe Halliwell's point-blank header.

North End supporters refused to leave Deepdale until their favourites showed their faces to tumultuous applause. Hardly surprising, with the double result of North End being crowned champions and their arch rivals being relegated!

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 25th October 1913

A win at last!

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Toward Barlow)
Burnley (Hodgson)

Attendance
27,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
H.Taylor C.McFadyen F.Broadhurst
J.Johnston J.McCall W.Henderson
J.Morley A.Common A.Toward
F.Osborn G.Barlow
Burnley
J.Dawson T.Bamford D.Taylor
W.McLaren T.Boyle N.Watson
E.Mosscrop T.Charlton B.Freeman
E.Hodgson W.Nesbitt

Though both teams had won promotion the previous season, their performances in the First Division so far had been very different. North End hadn't won any of their opening nine games whilst Burnley were ninth in the table. The Lilywhites' hopes must have been lessened considerably before the game when it was found that in addition to Rodway having cried off with an ankle injury, Holdsworth had also been forced to pull out. Also Bill Henderson was making his league debut for Preston following an injury to George Dawson.

Within the opening minute, the Clarets had twice broken through Preston's patched-up defence only to be whistled offside but within a minute and a half they had taken the lead. Nesbitt centred to Charlton who laid the ball back for HODGSON. He went round McFadyen and shot past Taylor as the North End keeper attempted to narrow the angle.

After this disappointing setback, North End began to settle and played some good football. Both Barlow and Toward tested Jerry Dawson in the Burnley goal before the former beat the Burnley keeper, only to see the ball pass inches wide of the post. In the 12th minute, Bert Freeman picked the ball up on the halfway line and set off for goal with McFadyen and Broadhurst in hot pursuit. Forced to shoot from longer range than he would have liked, he grazed the wrong side of Taylor's left-hand upright as McFadyen and Broadhurst crashed into one another with such force that the veteran full-back spent the rest of the game on the wing.

North End gradually overcame their problems and worked hard in their attempt to draw level, though the endeavours of George Barlow were still being wasted by his team-mates.

Then in the 35th minute, McCall's defence-splitting pass found TOWARD who controlled it, turned and shot, all in one movement for a great equalising goal. Just before half-time, North End were awarded a penalty when McLaren handled Barlow's intended pass to Osborn. The latter struck the spot-kick high to Dawson's right but the Burnley keeper made a fine save, turning the ball over the bar.

In the second-half, Burnley came close to scoring on a number of occasions as Hodgson headed against an upright with Taylor beaten and then grazed the crossbar with a shot cum cross.

However, the next and what proved to be the winning goal came from North End as the injured McFadyen crossed for the unmarked BARLOW to push the ball wide of the diving Jerry Dawson.

North End had won their first match and the fans were able to go home happy!

What the papers said
The Burnley Express reporter wrote 'It is a tribute to Preston's pluck and determination that the early reverse taught them the way to victory. Of course Burnley had many hard lines but Preston had more than three-quarters of the subsequent game'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Friday 26th December 1913

Shea is hat-trick hero as Rovers run riot!

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Blackburn Rovers 5

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Barlow)
Blackburn R (Shea 3 Simpson Aitkenhead)

Attendance
26,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
H.Taylor F.Broadhurst T.Rodway
E.Holdsworth J.McCall G.Dawson J.Ford
J.Marshall T.Broome F.Osborn G.Barlow
Blackburn Rovers
A.Robinson R.Crompton A.Cowell
A.Walsmley A.Bell W.Bradshaw J.Simpson
D.Shea W.Aitkenhead E.Latheron
J.Hodkinson

What the papers said
Hermes in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Considering the holding nature of the ground, the pace was a punishing one, twice as much effort being required to propel the ball as usual, in spite of which the North End forwards persisted in too much dribbling'.

Following a series of heavy downpours, the Deepdale playing surface was virtually covered in puddles as a depleted North End side entertained Blackburn Rovers.

The visitors lost no time in taking the lead. Under a minute had been played when Danny SHEA finished off a fine move involving Bell and Aitkenhead. Latheron almost added another two minutes later when his powerfully struck shot hit the crossbar. At the other end, a fine ball by Ford gave Marshall a chance but the North End forward pulled his shot wide. Despite the atrocious conditions underfoot, the game continued to be fast and exciting. Dawson lobbed a long centre into the six-yard box where Robinson fumbled the ball. Barlow was the quickest to react but sent his shot into the side-netting. Then Osborn beat Bradshaw and Crompton, before crossing for Marshall, who failed to connect with the skidding ball.

Rodway fouled Latheron just outside the penalty area and from the resultant free-kick, Bradshaw lobbed the ball on to the top of Taylor's crossbar.

North End drew level after 27 minutes when Ford's cross was forced forward, by debutant Tom Broome, to BARLOW who crashed the ball past Robinson. A minute later, North End had strong claims for a penalty turned down after a free-kick had hit Bob Crompton on the arm.

Five minutes before the break, Rovers could and should have taken the lead. Aitkenhead and Taylor were involved in a race for the ball. Though the North End keeper won, the ball rebounded off him to Latheron who shot wide of an empty goal. Early in the second-half, North End almost went ahead but Marshall's cross-cum-shot just evaded Barlow.

Tom Broome was having a fine match and from a ruck of players, got in a fine shot which struck the bar.

North End forced several corners but in their anxiety to take the lead were leaving large gaps at the back. On the hour mark, Rovers broke away and forced a corner from which they went ahead. Hodkinson's cross found SIMPSON whose tame shot beat the unsighted Taylor.

Minutes later, Rovers scored a third goal as the result of a free-kick awarded against Rodway. Crompton's kick was headed home at the near post by SHEA, giving Taylor no chance. It was now all Blackburn and Latheron sent another shot crashing against the woodwork with Taylor beaten. Rovers went further ahead in the 87th minute when from Simpson's corner, following a good save by Taylor, SHEA completed his third hat-trick of the season. In what was left of the game, Rovers pressed hard and in the last minute, AITKENHEAD completed the scoring after fine work by Walmsley.

BURNLEY v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 28th February 1914

North End come from behind to win Turf Moor thriller.

In one of the most memorable games between the two clubs, North End turned round a 3-1 half-time deficit to run out winners 4-3.

Though Burnley weren't particularly dangerous, they had the better of the opening exchanges with Mosscrop and Nesbitt both coming close to scoring the game's first goal. However, on 20 minutes, it was North End who took the lead through MACAULEY. Ford got away on the right and crossed for the Preston No.10 to bundle the ball over the line, but it was a hotly disputed goal and Clarets' keeper Jerry Dawson chased the referee all the way to the centre-circle claiming that Macauley had controlled the ball with his hand.

A minute later, the home side equalised with another disputed goal. Clarets' captain Tommy Boyle's shot was adjudged to have been handled by Rodway and from the spot-kick, BOYLE sent Taylor the wrong way. Burnley then had the better of the play but didn't take the lead until the 40th minute when Freeman was fouled just outside the penalty area. From the free-kick, BOYLE sent the ball hard and low to Taylor's left and though the Preston keeper got his hands to it, he couldn't prevent it from crossing the line.

Just before the interval, following good work by Milligan, Nesbitt crossed to the far post where MOSSCROP volleyed home.

On the hour mark, North End pulled a goal back when Ford's pin-point cross was headed powerfully into the roof of the net by OSBORN.

Burnley went straight down to the other end and should have extended their lead after Mosscrop had evaded Broadhurst's desperate lunge, but the Clarets' winger shot straight at Taylor.

North End then began to have the better of the play and on 83 minutes drew level when a long ball from Rodway dropped over the head of Boyle to set up OSBORN. The North End player coolly placed his shot wide of the onrushing Dawson. There were just two minutes left when Preston were awarded a corner. As the ball came over, Clarets' defender Taylor was 'accidentally' injured in a collision with goalkeeper Dawson and was lying prostrate on the ground. The referee waved play on and TOWARD powered home the winner off the underside of the crossbar. It was only after the referee had awarded the goal, that he noticed the injured player who was helped off the field in a dazed condition!

Final Score
Burnley 3 Preston North End 4

Venue
Turf Moor

Scorers
Burnley (Boyle 2 (1 pen) Mosscrop)
PNE (Osborn 2 Toward Macauley)

Attendance
20,000

Line-ups
Burnley
J.Dawson T.Bamford D.Taylor G.Halley
T.Boyle W.Watson W.Nesbitt R.Lindley
B.Freeman G.Milligan E.Mosscrop
Preston North End
H.Taylor F.Broadhurst T.Rodway
E.Holdsworth T.Broome G.Dawson
J.Ford A.Toward F.Osborn J.Macauley
G.Barlow

What the papers said
The Sportsman, writing in the Burnley Express, said 'By defeating Burnley, North End accomplished an exploit they have not performed in a First Division match at Turf Moor for about twenty years and the game is the most prolific in the history of the clubs in League matches, with one exception'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tuesday 26th December 1916

Edmondson hat-trick in Wartime Christmas derby.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackburn Rovers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Edmondson 3)
Blackburn R (Orr)

Attendance
5,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
H.Taylor F.Broadhurst G.Speak
E.Holdsworth J.McCall G.Dawson
C.Broad J.Meyler J.Edmondson
D.Fazackerley G.Barlow
Blackburn Rovers
W.McIvor R.Crompton F.Duckworth
A.Walmsley P.Smith J.Swarbrick A.McGhie
J.Orr R.Morris E.Latheron J.Hodkinson

What the papers said
Perseus in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'The revival of the traditional meetings between North End and the Rovers at Christmas time by bringing forward the two matches in the subsidiary competition later in the season, gave to Deepdale, greater life and stir to local football than has been the case all winter'.

This Boxing Day clash played against the backdrop of the First World War, lacked the usual keen excitement and colour as most people's thoughts were not surprisingly elsewhere. Yet in spite of that, North End and Rovers produced a game of decent football.

The game was less than five minutes old when Preston goalkeeper Taylor was injured in a collision with one of his own defenders and the proceedings were held up for quite a while as the North End custodian received treatment. Though the visitors included a number of former Preston players in their ranks, namely Morris, Smith and Swarbrick, it was North End who played the better football in the opening stages with both Fazackerley and Barlow going close. Preston eventually, and deservedly, took the lead after 27 minutes when Fazackerley played the ball out to Barlow. He outpaced England full-back Bob Crompton before sending over a cross which McIvor in the Rovers' goal could not hold, allowing EDMONDSON to head home.

North End continued to dominate the game and though they created numerous goalscoring opportunities, these weren't taken. One minute before half-time, Rovers drew level when Latheron's accurate pass found ORR, who curled his shot round Taylor and into the net off the far post.

The second-half was less than thirty seconds old when North End took the lead. Barlow, taking a pass from Dawson, was involved in a neat move with Fazackerley and EDMONDSON before the latter powered home another header past McIvor in the Blackburn goal. In all honesty, the Rovers' keeper should have caught the ball but it appears that he had one eye on Fazackerley who was rushing in on him.

The Blackburn keeper made amends shortly afterwards, saving well from both Edmondson and Barlow as North End strived to increase their lead. At the other end, a rare shot by Latheron was well saved by Taylor, now fully recovered from his earlier knock.

North End's EDMONDSON completed his hat-trick in the 56th minute when after collecting a pass from Fazackerley, he rounded McIvor before calmly slotting the ball into the empty net.

Rovers now came back into the game more and former North Ender Bill Swarbrick brought another fine save out of Taylor. Latheron and Orr both missed fairly simple chances to reduce the arrears towards the end of the game.

However, it wasn't to be and North End hung on to claim a deserved victory.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 30th August 1919

Rovers give North End a lesson in finishing.

In what was the first Football League game following the First World War, North End played as much below expectations as the Rovers did above them. The home side were missing players of the calibre of Crompton, Simpson, Latheron, Bradshaw and Cowell, yet could not have dominated the game more than they did.

North End made a bright start and almost took the lead after two minutes when Osborn's shot was only parried by Robinson. The ball ran loose to Halligan but his first-time effort was well off target. The visitors continued to make the early running and following a good move on the right by Tatton and Davies, Osborn got in a header which Robinson was happy to turn behind for a corner. Dawson took the flag-kick but Robinson under pressure from Osborn and Halligan managed to punch clear.

Rovers took the lead from what was their first attack of the game. McGhie's shot seemed to pass harmlessly wide of Causer's goal but to everyone's amazement, the referee awarded a corner. Hodkinson's flag-kick was hit hard and low across the face of the North End goal where HAWKSWORTH forced the ball over the line.

Midway through the half, Blackburn scored a second goal when Causer was off his line berating the North End defence for failing to clear the ball. DAWSON was fully 35 yards out when he coolly lobbed the ball into the empty net.

North End had to defend in depth and a goal-line clearance by Broadhurst prevented Dawson from netting his second and Blackburn's third goal.

However, early in the second-half, DAWSON did find the net when Danny Shea's shot came back to him off the legs of Speak and he drilled the ball into the roof of the net from close range.

The Preston defence was far too flimsy, with only Joe McCall preventing Rovers running riot. McGhie had cut inside two North End defenders and was shaping to shoot when McCall came across to win the ball. He was also on hand to clear the danger when Causer dropped a high centre from Hodkinson with Shea waiting to pounce. There was little he could do about Rovers' fourth goal as Danny SHEA's free-kick from 30 yards out struck the underside of the bar before nestling in the back of Arthur Causer's goal.

The Preston keeper who'd already had a busy afternoon, was forced into making one final save in the dying moments of the game, to prevent Dawson from completing his hat-trick.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 4 Preston North End 0

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Dawson 2 Hawksworth Shea)
PNE (-)

Attendance
20,000

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
A.Robinson R.Walmsley F.Duckworth
A.Walmsley P.Smith T.Rigg A.McGhie D.Shea
P.Dawson E.Hawksworth J.Hodkinson
Preston North End
A.Causer F.Broadhurst G.Speak
E.Holdsworth J.McCall W.Henderson J.Tatton
S.Davies F.Osborn W.Halligan G.Dawson

What the papers said
Perseus in the Lancashire Evening Post pulled no punches. He wrote 'North End's display was almost without a redeeming feature and without a single man who stood out from the general mediocrity'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Monday 27th December 1920

Woodhouse the hero in front of record crowd.

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Blackburn Rovers 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Woodhouse 3 Quinn)
Blackburn R (Dawson 2 (1pen))

Attendance
35,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Mitchell W.Greatorex G.Speak G.Waddell
J.McCall W.Mercer A.Rawlings F.Jefferis
W.Roberts R.Woodhouse P.Quinn
Blackburn Rovers
A.Robinson J.Donnelly F.Duckworth L.Thorpe
F.Reilly T.Heaton S.McCall J.McDonald
P.Dawson E.Hawksworth J.Hodkinson

What the papers said

Perseus of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'There was much vigorous tackling in the game and too many free-kicks but generally speaking, these were the outcome of excessive zeal rather than bad feeling. It would be idle to assume that the Rovers deserved any other fate than that of defeat in this match'.

Following a 2-2 draw at Ewood Park on Christmas Day, the return game at Deepdale on Boxing Day, was chiefly remarkable for three things - a record crowd, the scoring of three goals by Rowland Woodhouse and the unfortunate incident which resulted in Reilly receiving his marching orders.

The game was watched by the largest crowd ever seen at Deepdale, a crowd which compelled the gates to be closed half-an-hour before the start, overflowed the barriers - which were broken down at the north end - penetrated so near the touch lines that corner kicks could not be properly taken, stampeded the paddock and swarmed the walls!

North End certainly had the better of the early exchanges with both Roberts and Jefferis forcing Robinson in the Rovers' goal into making good saves. Rawlings too had a good chance but he delayed his shot, allowing Donnelly to get back and clear. In fact, it took North End half-an-hour to break down a Blackburn defence which greatly missed the dominance of Rollo, even though Donnelly did not let his side down. A pin-point cross by Jefferis found QUINN who had the simple task of beating Robinson. Within minutes, Preston had extended their lead when Rawlings beat three Blackburn defenders in a mazy dribble before crossing to the far post where WOODHOUSE outjumped the Rovers' keeper to head home.

It was a bolt out of the blue when DAWSON pulled a goal back for the visitors with a perfect example of first-time shooting.

Early in the second-half, Rovers drew level when the referee awarded them a penalty after judging rather harshly that Speak had pushed Hawksworth in the back. DAWSON then sent Mitchell the wrong way.

The game was less than an hour old when WOODHOUSE fired North End back into the lead, again following good work by Rawlings.

Then came the incident which resulted in Rovers centre-half Reilly being ordered off the field. He was fouled by Rawlings and after the pair had come to ground together, the Blackburn defender appeared to jab at his opponent with his foot and was promptly dismissed, though Joe McCall tried to intervene on his behalf. Following Reilly's dismissal, Rovers were never in the game and WOODHOUSE completed his hat-trick with the best goal of the game. Picking up the ball inside his own half, he threaded his way through the Rovers' defence before placing his shot wide of Robinson in the Rovers' goal.

BURNLEY v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 5th November 1921

Hat-trick for Woodhouse in see-saw game.

The Clarets preserved their record of 27 consecutive League matches at Turf Moor without a defeat, but North End were only the fourth visiting team to gain a draw, and in doing so, became the first club to penetrate Burnley's defence three times.

North End ended the game with only seven fit men - Duxbury suffered concussion for his part in Burnley's second goal; Roberts had an old leg wound opened up again following a collision with Smelt; Williamson had deep gashes to both knee and calf, whilst Rawlings twisted his ankle.

In one of the most thrilling of Turf Moor derbies, the home side took the lead after 14 minutes when Bob Kelly beat Duxbury and crossed for ANDERSON to outjump McCall and head powerfully past Mitchell in the North End goal.

Burnley skipper Tom Boyle watched the game from the stand and saw his replacement Bassnett head inches over the bar from Nesbitt's cross.

North End gradually got into the game and in their first real attack, levelled the scores. WOODHOUSE played a neat one-two with Roberts before drilling the ball past Jerry Dawson. Preston continued to have more of the play in the minutes leading up to half-time but though Rawlings and Williamson found themselves through on goal with only Dawson to beat, neither was up to the task.

Within minutes of the restart, Burnley regained the lead. Duxbury and CROSS went for the ball and though there was a clash of heads, which resulted in the North End defender requiring treatment, the ball ended up in Mitchell's net.

It wasn't long before Preston were level, WOODHOUSE forcing the ball home from close range after Dawson had failed to hold Tommy Roberts' shot from the edge of the area.

Burnley took the lead for a third time in the 77th minute, though there was an element of luck about the goal. Joe McCall delayed his clearance and as ANDERSON tackled him, the ball rebounded off the Burnley forward's shin and past a startled Mitchell.There was also a touch of controversy about the final goal of the game that gave the North End forward his hat-trick.

Archie Rawlings' shot from distance was parried by Dawson and as the ball rolled agonisingly towards the net, he dived on the ball before the whole of it had crossed the line. However, WOODHOUSE then appeared to kick the ball out of the keeper's hands to make it 3-3.

Final Score
Burnley 3 Preston North End 3

Venue
Turf Moor

Scorers
Burnley (Anderson 2 Cross)
PNE (Woodhouse 3)

Attendance
30,000

Line-ups
Burnley
J.Dawson L.Smelt C.Jones G.Halley
A.Bassnett W.Watson W.Nesbitt R.Kelly
J.Anderson B.Cross E.Mosscrop
Preston North End
J.Mitchell T.Hamilton A.Doolan T.Duxbury
J.McCall J.Irving A.Rawlings J.Williamson
W.Roberts R.Woodhouse P.Quinn

What the papers said
Perseus, writing in the Lancashire Evening Post, commented 'Burnley played the more systematic and better-balanced football in attack but North End were more penetrating by their direct thrusts and swoops and they had the more open chances of winning'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 3rd December 1921

Roberts treble boosts North End.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Bolton Wanderers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Roberts 3)
Bolton W (Jack)

Attendance
25,000

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Elliott T.Hamilton A.Doolan G.Waddell
J.McCall W.Mercer A.Rawlings F.Jefferis
W.Roberts R.Woodhouse P.Quinn
Bolton Wanderers
D.Pym J.Elvey J.Hodson B.Longworth
S.Wright T.Buchan H.Cartman D.Jack
F.Roberts J.Smith T.Vizard

What the papers said
Ajax in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'From the standpoint of football aesthetics, the match or rather the manner in which North End hit the high spots in it, will live long in the memory, for they outmatched their opponents from first to last without any notable interruptions'.

The question on everyone's lips after this game was, 'are North End going to be one of the great sides of 1921-22?' The season had opened with North End drawing 2-2 at Bolton and then beating Arsenal 3-2 at Deepdale before this victory in the return with the Wanderers.

Though only two matches were lost at Deepdale, North End went 13 consecutive away games without a goal! Finishing the season in 16th place, Preston's salvation was the FA Cup, reaching the final only to lose 1-0 to Huddersfield Town.

North End attacked from the outset and Pym was forced to turn the ball behind for a corner after coming under pressure from Roberts and Woodhouse. A long ball out of defence by Mercer found Quinn, he went round Elvey before crossing to the far post where Tommy ROBERTS was the first to react, turning the ball past Pym from close range.

Bolton's Welsh international winger Ted Vizard revealed flashes of occasional brilliance and from one of these, the Wanderers drew level through Jack. The Wanderers' winger put in a tantalising cross which Elliott decided to come for, but was beaten to it by the speed of David JACK who headed into an empty net.

Preston then seemed to step up a gear and the Wanderers' defence became hopelessly outnumbered and outplayed by goal hungry opponents.

Jefferis and Rawlings combined well before the latter tried a delicate chip which landed on the roof of Dick Pym's net. Roberts almost netted a second but his first-time shot was turned round the post by the ever-alert Dick Pym.

Early in the second-half, North End scored the goal they had been threatening to do for most of the first period. Rawlings left Buchan and Hodson trailing in his wake before a pin-point cross picked out the head of Tommy ROBERTS, who headed home off the angle of bar and post.

Quinn then crossed for Woodhouse to get in a first-time shot but Pym saved well, albeit at the second attempt. The Bolton keeper then turned McCall's long range shot round the post as North End went in search of a third goal. They didn't have long to wait as Jefferis' shot hit the post before rebounding into the path of ROBERTS who had time to pick his spot.

Bolton's only effort in the second-half came in the closing stages of the game. Joe Smith's header, following good work by David Jack, was well held by John Elliott.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 26th August 1922

North End start new season in style.

These two great rivals met at Deepdale on the opening day of the 1922-23 season and though the North End faithful were hopeful of a winning start, the Wanderers took the lead after just two minutes. Ted Vizard and David Jack linked well down the left before the Welsh international winger crossed for FLOOD to side-foot the ball against the inside of the post before it nestled in the back of Branston's net.

The Wanderers dominated the first half-hour of the match with Frank Roberts and David Jack both forcing Jimmy Branston into making good saves and Flood curling a free-kick into the side-netting. The visitors were on top so much that how they only had a one-goal lead was difficult to believe! When David Jack was through on goal with only Branston to beat, it seemed certain that he would score, but the North End keeper made a brave save by smothering the ball at the Bolton forward's feet.

This was the signal for North End to break out of their lethargy and just before the interval, Tommy ROBERTS levelled the scores with a shot that nearly caused the net to come off its fixings! It was one of the best goals seen at Deepdale in many a year.Wanderers' keeper Dick Pym was then called into action on two occasions as the half drew to a close, saving a Quinn header and then a spectacular long range shot from Billy Mercer.

In the second-half, the game was more even and though Jack almost put the visitors 2-1 up, the next goal came from North End, when relative newcomer George SAPSFORD outjumped the Bolton defence to power a header past the hapless Pym. Though the Wanderers had one of the tallest defences in the First Division, they found Rowland Woodhouse, probably the shortest player on the field, quite a handful. In fact, it was WOODHOUSE who scored North End's third goal in the 70th minute, when having played along the ground to feet, he evaded the desperate challenges of two Bolton defenders before slipping the ball past the advancing Pym.

In the minutes that remained, Preston could have gone further ahead if Dick Pym hadn't produced a number of first-class saves. Sapsford and Quinn both tested the Wanderers keeper from the edge of the area, whilst Rawlings' shot-cum-cross forced Pym to turn the ball onto the bar before it was cleared upfield by Haworth. The final act of the game saw a frustrated Ted Vizard, who had been well marked throughout the game by Tommy Hamilton, shoot straight into the arms of Jimmy Branston.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Bolton Wanderers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Roberts Sapsford Woodhouse)
Bolton W (Flood)

Attendance
27,557

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Branston T.Hamilton A.Doolan T.Duxbury
J.McCall W.Mercer A.Rawlings R.Woodhouse
W.Roberts G.Sapsford P.Quinn
Bolton Wanderers
D.Pym R.Haworth P.Thirkell B.Longworth
C.Smith W.Jennings F.Roberts D.Jack C.Flood
J.Smith T.Vizard

Preston North End 1922 Team

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 5th January 1924

Ferris treble demolishes Clarets.

Final Score
Preston North End 5 Burnley 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Ferris 3 Roberts 2)
Burnley (-)

Attendance
15,564

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Branston T.Hamilton W.Yates
W.Mercer J.McCall R.Crawford
R.Woodhouse A.Rawlings W.Roberts
J.Ferris G.Harrison
Burnley
J.Dawson L.Smelt D.Taylor A.Bassnett
J.Hill W.Watson P.Bennie R.Kelly
G.Beel B.Cross W.Weaver

What the papers said
Burnley Express writer 'Sportsman' wrote 'North End made a much better show today, following their 1-0 defeat at Turf Moor a week ago, straining every nerve to turn the tables, though since the war, Burnley have held the upper hand'.

Both teams entered this derby desperate for a win, North End because they had been victorious in only two of their 11 league games at Deepdale and Burnley because they had not won on their travels since the previous March!

North End had the better of the early play, with both Ferris and Roberts testing Dawson from long range before a cross from Harrison landed on the roof of the Burnley keeper's net, with Ferris unmarked at the far post waiting for a much deeper cross. The Whites deservedly took the lead after 14 minutes when Rawlings' dribble took him past three Burnley defenders before crossing to Roberts. His first-time shot was mis-hit but fell kindly for FERRIS to shoot past the flat-footed Dawson in the Burnley goal.

The home side nearly extended their lead midway through the first-half, following good work by Woodhouse and Rawlings when Roberts' shot scraped the outside of Dawson's right-hand post with the Clarets' keeper well beaten.

On the half-hour mark, the visitors' goal had the first of three miraculous escapes in the space of just five minutes, with Ferris and Roberts at the centre of the action. North End eventually went 2-0 up in the 34th minute when ROBERTS headed home Harrison's cross. After this, North End attacked relentlessly, putting the Burnley defenders under enormous pressure and in the last three minutes of the first-half, scored two further goals. The first of these came from the head of FERRIS who headed in a deep cross by Archie Rawlings. A minute later, North End's fans went wild as Tommy ROBERTS crashed home a powerful shot that entered the net off the underside of the bar.

The second-half was a much quieter affair as the Burnley defence gradually came to terms with the North End forwards. The damage of course had been done and Preston keeper Jimmy Branston was a virtual spectator, spending his time fielding back passes and dealing easily with long range shots from Kelly and Cross.

North End winger George Harrison was the recipient of a rather hefty challenge in the 61st minute and had to leave the field for treatment. Whilst they were down to ten-men, the Whites scored a fifth goal through FERRIS who thus completed a well-taken hat-trick.

It was without doubt, the highlight of the North End centre-forward's career - an amazing achievement when one thinks he scored just one other goal all season!

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 11th October 1924

Wanderers run North End ragged.

North End suffered a major blow prior to the kick-off of this local derby when captain Joe McCall had to withdraw owing to an attack of lumbago. Also, leading goalscorer Tommy Roberts had been transferred to Burnley, so the North End team did not look the same without his dash and shooting power.

Bolton took the lead in the opening minute of the game when Nuttall's long ball out of defence found Jack. He outpaced Hamilton before crossing to the unmarked VIZARD whose shot struck Prout before hitting the back of the net. Only five minutes had been played when the Wanderers scored a second goal. Jack fed Boston and the winger responded with an equally accurate centre that found Joe Smith. He in turn laid the ball back to JACK who forced the ball home from close range.

The home side were playing some fine, exhilarating football, with David Jack in particular in outstanding form. On 12 minutes, Boston was tripped from behind by Hamilton and from the resultant free-kick taken by Nuttall, Joe SMITH rose above a static North End defence to make it 3-0. A minute later, JACK scored his second goal to put the game out of North End's reach. Picking up the ball on the halfway line, he held off challenges from Hamilton and Mercer and raced round Prout before rolling the ball into the empty net.

It was midway through the first-half before Preston had their first shot on goal when Aitken's fiercely hit shot had Pym scrambling to turn the ball round the post. Bolton continued to make the running and good work by Jack ended in Joe Smith shooting narrowly wide.

Joe SMITH extended Wanderers' lead even further early in the second-half, fastening on to Wade's attempted back pass and rounding Prout before shooting home. North End were definitely missing McCall - the Bolton forwards had so much space that it seemed only a matter of time before they scored a sixth goal. Jack and Vizard both went close with rasping drives that left Prout clutching thin air as the ball scraped the woodwork.

The Wanderers finally found the net again in the 82nd minutes when CASSIDY headed home Vizard's cross to the far post.

North End pulled a goal back in the dying moments when Crawford, up supporting his forwards, headed a Harrison cross goalwards where WILLIAMSON standing in the six-yard box, forced the ball over the line.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 6 Preston North End 1

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Vizard Jack 2 Smith 2 Cassidy)
PNE (Williamson)

Attendance
20,000

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
D.Pym W.Rowley A.Finney H.Nuttall
J.Seddon W.Jennings H.Boston D.Jack
J.Cassidy J.Smith T.Vizard
Preston North End
G.Prout W.Wade T.Hamilton W.Mercer
J.Forrest J.Williamson W.Aitken
R.Woodhouse F.Marquis R.Crawford
G.Harrison

What the papers said
Ajax of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End's defeat at Bolton was encompassed so easily, so swiftly and completely that one doubts whether it can properly be classified as sensational - certainly it was not a thrilling affair in spite of the Wanderers' rapid scoring achievement which represented the outstanding event of the season in First Division football'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 20th March 1926

North End win ten-goal thriller.

Final Score
Preston North End 6 Blackpool 4

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Russell Jackson Harrison 2 (1pen) James Gillespie)
Blackpool (Crawford og Williams 2 Butler)

Attendance
20,048

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Branston W.Wade D.Gibson
E.Gerrard D.Morris R.Crawford
T.Gillespie W.Russell W.Jackson
A.James G.Harrison
Blackpool
L.Crompton R.Wright M.Wellock
A.Watson S.Binks W.Benton
J.Meredith C. Tilbrook W.Williams
H.Butler P.Downes

What the papers said
Writing under 'The Casual' the Blackpool Gazette and Herald reporter said 'Fortune fluctuated throughout but the Seasiders were never disheartened. They played the kind of game that would have produced more goals had all the opportunities been turned to account'.

In one of the most remarkable games ever seen at Deepdale - the fact that ten goals were scored is some indication of that - North End and Blackpool provided the 20,048 crowd with ninety minutes packed with incident.

The Seasiders almost took the lead in the opening minute when Downes' shot was headed away from under his own crossbar by Gibson. Shortly afterwards, Watson worked his way into the North End penalty area and drove hard at goal, Branston diving to take the ball from Butler's toes as he shaped to shoot.

Yet it was North End who took the lead after 12 minutes. Gillespie was impeded just outside the Blackpool box and from the resultant free-kick taken by Harrison, the ball struck a defender and looped in the air for RUSSELL to head home.

Blackpool drew level after 20 minutes when CRAWFORD under pressure from Tilbrook headed past his own keeper.

Five minutes later, North End regained the lead with a goal of stunning quality. JACKSON with his back to goal, turned before rifling the ball home from fully 30 yards past a bemused Crompton in the Blackpool goal.

The Seasiders should have equalised minutes later but Butler missed a glorious chance when Tilbrook rolled the ball across the goalmouth.

North End extended their lead in the 32nd minute when Wellock brought down Jackson just outside the penalty area. Crompton again, with the sun in his eyes stood rooted to the spot as HARRISON drove the ball into the roof of the net.

During the interval, the ground was swept by a heavy rainstorm which drenched the playing surface and made the ball greasy and heavy.

Blackpool had the first chance of the second-half but Williams headed Downes' cross straight into Branston's hands. Five minutes after the restart, North End went 4-1 up when both Wright and Wellock failed to clear the ball and JAMES nipped into smash the ball home off the underside of the crossbar.

Blackpool scored a second goal straight from the kick-off when WILLIAMS raced through a static North End defence and shot low past the oncoming Branston. For a while, the Seasiders controlled the game but fell further behind in the 65th minute when Jackson was pushed in the back by Wright and the referee awarded a penalty.

HARRISON took the spot-kick, easily beating Crompton in the visitors' goal. The game continued to be played at a fast pace and on 76 minutes, BUTLER headed in a centre by Meredith. Three minutes later, GILLESPIE scored his first goal in English football by beating Crompton with a shot that the Blackpool keeper ought to have saved. Six minutes from time, WILLIAMS completed the scoring with a fine individual goal.

The pace of the game told on the players in the later stages but there was excitement right to the end of an outstanding game.

Alec James, who scored against Blackpool, is seen here meeting the King.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 5th November 1927

North End humbled!

Final Score
Blackpool 4 Preston North End 1

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Benton (2 pens) Meredith Tufnell)
PNE (Reid)

Attendance
10,789

Line-ups
Blackpool
F.Hobbs L.Barnett A.Tilford A.Watson
P.Thorpe W.Benton J.Meredith T.Browell
J.Hampson S.Tufnell R.Neal
Preston North End
A.Carr W.Wade T.Hamilton J.Metcalf D.Morris
R.Crawford A.Reid W.Russell W.Roberts
A.James G.Harrison

What the papers said

'Alex' in the Blackpool Gazette and Herald wrote 'Preston North End with all their 'stars' were no match for Blackpool at Bloomfield Road on Saturday, when the Seasiders won a thrilling game 4-1. Whatever efforts are made to find excuses for the downfall of North End, they only magnify the pronounced superiority of Blackpool'.

If a spectator had seen this match without knowing the identity of the two teams, he would most surely have thought that Blackpool were Preston and Preston were Blackpool!

It was the Seasiders who played with all the dash and enthusiasm of a promotion-chasing side while North End seemed for the greater part of the game, a team without hope. There is no doubt that Preston were suffering from their 3-0 home defeat at the hands of Chelsea a week earlier, as Blackpool adapted themselves to a heavy and waterlogged playing surface.

Bloomfield Road was a quagmire long before the game started and the entire match was played in heavy rain.

The Seasiders took the lead in the 16th minute when Neal was upended in the area and the referee awarded a penalty. This was taken by BENTON who made no mistake, sending Carr the wrong way. Immediately after, Blackpool full-back Barnett sliced his clearance into the path of Roberts but with only Hobbs to beat, he shot wide. At the other end, Hampson put in a powerful shot which Carr did well to turn round the post and Neal ballooned his shot over the bar.

North End drew level on the half-hour mark when REID, their most dangerous forward, headed home a centre by Harrison.

Blackpool then regained the ascendancy and Meredith's shot hit the bar when he seemed a certain scorer. It was MEREDITH who restored the Seasiders' lead five minutes before the interval when he netted from close range following a goalmouth scramble. Shortly afterwards, the home side should have extended their lead but Neal put the ball over the bar when well placed. The Seasiders nearly increased their half-time lead just seconds after the restart but Thorpe's well-struck shot was well saved by Carr. Blackpool were now running North End ragged and deservedly went 3-1 up in the 56th minute. Hampson began the movement but it was Neal who really made the goal possible. He tricked Wade and crossed the ball into the six-yard box where Carr pushed the ball away to TUFNELL who promptly banged it past the North End keeper and into the unguarded net.

A minute later, Blackpool went further ahead when Neal was again fouled in the area and the referee awarded the home side a second penalty. Up strode BENTON and though Carr got his hands to the spot-kick, he couldn't prevent the ball from crossing the line.

Though that was the end of the scoring, only the heroics of Tony Carr in the North End goal prevented the Seasiders from winning by a much bigger margin!

A packed Deepdale, a familiar sight on 'derby days'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 19th October 1929

Hampson treble as Seasiders record first win at Deepdale!

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Blackpool 6

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Steele Russell Horne Harrison (pen))
Blackpool (Lauderdale
Hampson 3 (1pen) Downes 2)

Attendance
21,185

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Ewart F.Ward J.Kerr D.Steele J.Nelson
R.Crawford A.Reid W.Russell J.McClelland
A.Horne G.Harrison
Blackpool
G.Wolfe W.Grant S.Ramsay A.Watson
D.Tremelling S.Tufnell C.Quinn W.Upton
J.Hampson J.Lauderdale P.Downes

After losing seven of their first ten league games, North End were hopeful of victory in a game against Blackpool, who had never won at Deepdale. North End were parading new signing John McClelland, whilst the Seasiders had in their ranks, future Preston players in George Wolfe and Bill Tremelling.

Both sides had early opportunities to break the deadlock but it was North End who took the lead after ten minutes when Billy RUSSELL headed home George Harrison's pin-point cross.

Blackpool came back strongly and Hampson fired narrowly wide before LAUDERDALE levelled the scores on 17 minutes after fine approach play by Tufnell and Downes. The Seasiders continued to create openings with both Hampson and Lauderale going close. The Seasiders No.9 eventually scored the goal he had been threatening to do on 35 minutes when a fine through ball by Tremelling saw HAMPSON outpace Nelson before steering the ball wide of Jock Ewart. Within a couple of minutes, the visitors had extended their lead when Hampson's header fell into the path of DOWNES who had time to pick his spot.

A minute later, North End were back in the game when McClelland was upended in the box by Grant and from the resultant spot-kick, HARRISON sent Wolfe the wrong way. These three goals had come in a hectic four-minute spell, yet it wasn't the end of the first-half scoring, for on the stroke of half-time, HAMPSON scored with another easy header following good work by Quinn.

North End came out fighting at the start of the second-half and both McClelland and Horne came close to reducing the arrears. They eventually pulled a goal back on 57 minutes when STEELE's long range shot sailed over the head of George Wolfe in the Blackpool goal. The Blackpool keeper had to be at his best as North End mounted attack after attack. Both Harrison and Reid had good efforts turned round the post in a spell of sustained pressure.

As so often happens it was Blackpool who scored next when DOWNES cut in from the left to shoot past Ewart. This seemed to knock the stuffing out of Preston and a few minutes later, the Seasiders went 6-3 up when Jimmy HAMPSON completed his hat-trick - netting from the spot after he had been fouled by Kerr.

Blackpool went in search of a seventh goal but it was North End who completed the scoring two minutes from time when Alfie HORNE forced his way through the Seasiders' rearguard to make the final score 6-4 to Blackpool. Certainly no-one in the 21,185 crowd could grumble about the lack of excitement or value for money!

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 22nd February 1930

Defensive errors cost North End dear.

A most remarkable scoreline considering that North End had most of the ball throughout the ninety minutes. The home forwards never took two moves when one would be enough, whilst North End wanted far too much time on the ball.

Preston gave a debut to young goalkeeper James Foster and he was unfortunate to find his judgment at fault the first time he was called into action. The young keeper appeared to take his eye off the ball as Ritchie crossed to the far post, allowing UPTON to head into an empty net.

Blackpool extended their lead midway through the first-half when Downes got away down the left and crossed for RITCHIE to side-foot home.

North End had their moments as the half came to a close but Bargh, McClelland and Hair missed chances that normally they would have buried. George Harrison saw a free-kick hit Pearson's right-hand post and bounce to safety whilst Crawford's long range effort forced the Blackpool keeper to tip over.

The Seasiders went further ahead on the stroke of half-time when BROADHURST volleyed home from the edge of the box following good work by Hampson.

Jimmy Hampson was without doubt the finest forward on the field and he came close on a couple of occasions at the start of the second-half, hitting the bar with a powerful header from a Downes cross and scraping the outside of Foster's right-hand post with a first-time snap shot.

Therefore it came as no surprise when HAMPSON made it 4-0, shooting past Foster after being put through by Tremelling.

North End did pull a goal back when Horne and McClelland combined well to allow HAIR the time and space to drill the ball past Pearson.

The Seasiders then came under a good deal of pressure as North End continued to dominate proceedings. Hair brought a fine save out of the Blackpool keeper whilst Harrison's well struck free-kick rattled the underside of the bar. Hair following up, was unlucky to see his shot strike the hand of Grant on the goal-line but the referee was unsighted!

Pearson made a good save from a George Bargh shot and immediately hit the ball upfield where Hampson, on bringing the ball under control, laid it off for UPTON to make it 5-1.

The result certainly flattered the Seasiders as it took them to the top of the Second Division, whilst the defeat prevented North End from getting clear of the relegation zone.

Final Score
Blackpool 5 Preston North End 1

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Upton 2 Ritchie Broadhurst Hampson)
PNE (Hair)

Attendance
15,347

Line-ups
Blackpool
H.Pearson W.Grant S.Ramsay A.Watson
D.Tremelling S.Tufnell A.Ritchie J.Hampson
C.Broadhurst W.Upton P.Downes
Preston North End
J.Foster F.Ward J.Kerr G.Nisbet J.Craven
R.Crawford A.Horne J.McClelland A.Hair
G.Bargh G.Harrison

What the papers said
Perseus of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'The side that displayed more of the finished touches of football got little to show for them, whereas that which spent less time over its moves and yet had no more of the play, even less than its opponents profited exceedingly. Good fortune played a considerable part in the result'.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Wednesday 13th January 1932

North End go through in Burnden Cup replay.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 2 Preston North End 5

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Gibson Blackmore)
PNE (Crawford Griffiths og Harper Bargh Wagstaffe og)

Attendance
32,862

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
R.Jones J.Wagstaffe A.Finney W.McKay
T.Griffiths W.Wright W.Butler G.Gibson
H.Blackmore G.Taylor W.Cook
Preston North End
G.Wolfe F.Gallimore F.Ward G.Nisbet
J.Nelson R.Crawford A.Reid R.Rowley
E.Harper G.Bargh H.Hales

What the papers said
The Olympian writing in the Bolton Evening News said 'For most of the game the Wanderers played like a well-beaten side. They were no match for their opponents - either individually or collectively'.

There were many important people in the football world present at this FA Cup third round replay including Major Buckley, Wolverhampton Wanderers' manager and two of his directors, who were doubtless present to take stock of the team they have to visit in the next round.

Preston had the better of the early exchanges and could have taken the lead as early as the third minute when Reid sent Rowley away on the right. His pin-point cross was met by Hales, whose header forced Jones into making a fine save. Yet it was the Wanderers who went ahead after seven minutes when Cook dodged his way past two North End defenders before crossing for GIBSON to head past Wolfe. The home side nearly extended their lead a minute later but Taylor's shot went inches outside Wolfe's right-hand post. Bolton were now finding their feet and their captain George Gibson forced the North End keeper into making a save at the foot of the post before Blackmore headed a Butler cross onto the roof of the net.

Bolton's keeper Bob Jones then stopped a point-blank shot from Harper and caught a drive by Rowley under the bar. He was now the busier of the two keepers and though he kept out a fine drive by Bargh, the pressure eventually told when CRAWFORD intercepted Wagstaffe's back-pass, went round Jones and placed the ball into the empty net for the equaliser. North End took the lead on the stroke of half-time when a mistake by McKay let in Hales, who squared the ball for Bargh. His shot took a deflection off GRIFFITHS to beat Jones' dive.

Within seconds of the restart, Harper was through on goal with only Jones to beat but overran the ball, allowing the Bolton keeper to come out and take the ball off his toes. Bolton almost drew level when Blackmore's shot from 25 yards saw the ball strike an upright before rebounding into the arms of the grateful George Wolfe. Yet to be fair, the Wanderers forwards were too slow and indecisive to make any sustained headway and in the 64th minute, the home sides fate was sealed when HARPER turned in Bargh's cross following good work by Hales.

Harper almost netted his second a minute later but again Jones came to Bolton's rescue with a fine save. Shortly afterwards, the Bolton keeper turned a stinging drive from Rowley over the bar.

Bolton did reduce the arrears in the 76th minute when BLACKMORE fired home from the edge of the area, but two minutes later, BARGH darted past two opponents before hitting his shot into the roof of the net. The crowning indignity for the home side came close on time when WAGASTAFF, under pressure from Bargh, placed the ball wide of his own keeper for the second own goal of the game!

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 7th December 1946

All over by half-time!

It was like old times at Deepdale, with thousands of people from Blackburn arriving for the peacetime renewal of those legendary battles between the Rovers and North End.

The home side were certainly the more aggressive and could have taken the lead in the third minute when Garth's pass found McIntosh but he delayed his shot just a fraction too long, allowing Pryde to get back and avert the danger. Garth too ought to have scored when McIntosh sent him away with a lovely through pass but he was narrowly wide with his attempt.

North End took the lead after 10 minutes when Finney found McINTOSH, who outpaced Pryde before slipping the ball wide of Marks, for his 15th goal of the season. A minute later, North End could have had a second goal but Garth's close range shot was blocked on the line by Pryde. In the hectic goal-line scramble, Rovers' keeper George Marks went down injured and required treatment behind the goal. After a few minutes delay, Marks was carried off and replaced in goal by Guest. It later transpired that he was unconscious when taken off, but recovered in the dressing-room. He was still unwell and was taken to the infirmary for further examination.

The game now became heavily one-sided and the inevitable happened after 25 minutes when Garth's shot was diverted past Guest by Bobby BEATTIE. Two minutes later, Guest fumbled a Wharton cross and McINTOSH was left with the simple task of turning the ball into the net from close range.

After 35 minutes, with the Rovers defence at sixes and sevens, Garth let a fine pass from Bobby Beattie run on to FINNEY, who hit a powerful left-foot drive into the roof of the net.

North End could have scored again just before the half-time whistle but McIntosh missed the chance of completing his hat-trick by over elaborating, when a first-time shot would have done the trick!

The opening stages on the resumption were tame by comparison with what happened earlier, but eventually North End began to pile on the pressure and run the tired Blackburn defenders off their feet.

Twice Bobby Beattie lost a likely scoring chance through hesitancy and both Finney and McIntosh had shots cleared off the line. Wharton hit the bar before Guest earned a big round of applause for an outstanding save from a McIntosh piledriver.

The game's one-sidedness had virtually turned it into a farce but for North End that fifth goal would just not come!

On the way to a comfortable victory.

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (McIntosh 2 R.Beattie Finney)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
32,238

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Fairbrother A.Beattie W.Scott B.Shankly
E.Williams W.Hamilton T.Finney J.Garth
W.McIntosh R.Beattie J.Wharton
Blackburn Rovers
W.Guest G.Marks L.Cook W.Crook
H.Stephen R.Pryde E.Bell W.Rogers
V.Godwin J.Campbell R.Langton

What the papers said
Viator of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'If North End cared to rub in the Rovers misfortune in losing their goalkeeper soon after the start at Deepdale, the visitors would have suffered a long-to-be remembered defeat!'

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 12th April 1947

Woodwork comes to North End's rescue.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 1 Preston North End 2

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Langton)
PNE (Finney Wilson)

Attendance
34,688

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
G.Marks L.Cook G.Higgins A.Whiteside
R.Pryde E.Bell J.Oakes J.Baldwin
V.Godwin A.Venters R.Langton
Preston North End
J.Fairbrother W.Watson W.Scott B.Shankly
W.Brown W.Hamilton T.Finney J.Garth
W.McIntosh R.Beattie J.Wilson

What the papers said
Writing in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph 'Rover' said 'Bubbling with thrills, the Rovers v North End duel at Ewood lived up to the finest traditions of this local derby. Holding on to their 2-1 interval lead, North End needed all their grit to withstand the Rovers tremendous onslaught'.

All stand seats were sold out weeks ago as Rovers and North End met for the first time for 11 seasons.

The first direct shot came from Blackburn's Baldwin, his 25 yard drive forcing Fairbrother to turn the ball over the bar. Venters then took a through ball from Langton, cut inside Watson and curled his shot just inches wide of Fairbrother's left-hand post. Godwin then broke clear and only had Fairbrother to beat but the referee had blown, adjudging that the Rovers centre-forward had brought the ball under control with his hands. Langton then tested Fairbrother with a terrific drive from the edge of the penalty area but despite all this early pressure, it was North End who took the lead after 17 minutes.

Completely against the run of play, FINNEY beat Higgins by the corner flag, and worked his way along the by-line before planting his shot, from a seemingly impossible angle, between Marks and the near post.

Rovers then hit back and Fairbrother made a remarkable double save from Baldwin and Godwin when an equaliser seemed certain.

Bobby Beattie

The home side's efforts were eventually rewarded after 22 minutes when Venters, just inside the penalty area, coolly drew the defence before feeding LANGTON who beat Fairbrother all ends up.

North End's greater finishing power put them ahead again after 31 minutes when McIntosh centred from the left and WILSON having run inside, beat a hesitant Marks to the ball and easily turned it past him.

Finney then almost made himself another goal - a perfect replica of his first - but the ball just passed outside the far post. Godwin then struck the bar with Fairbrother a spectator.

Early in the second-half, Pryde brought off a saving tackle from behind as McIntosh threatened to break through the middle.

The rousing nature of the first-half football was very much to the liking of the big crowd and was maintained with North End now having a greater share of the attacking. Marks had to be alert to save McIntosh's oblique drive but then the North End forward made poor use of a defence-splitting pass by Finney.

For the second time in the match, Godwin struck the bar and then Venters was no more than a coat of paint above the bar with a rasping shot. Fairbrother then did well to pull down from just beneath the bar, a long range effort by Baldwin before Langton hit the woodwork direct from a corner.

McIntosh appealed for a penalty after a tussle with Cook before in the final minute, the North End bar was struck yet again by a header from Oakes!

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 4th October 1947

North End hold on in five-goal thriller.

Everything conspired to give the meeting of Blackburn Rovers and Preston North End at Ewood Park, the piquant flavour of old - Rovers' revival, North End's lofty league position and a perfect autumn afternoon with bright sunshine and a gentle breeze, inevitably combining to draw a huge crowd.

Tom Finney teased and wove a path through the Rovers' defence and rounded off a fine run with a goal-making square centre which which McLaren missed in front of an open goal. Only five minutes had gone when Higgins needlessly tripped Finney in the area - the ball running out of play - and the referee awarded a penalty. Up stepped Bill SHANKLY to drive the ball wide of Marks.

McLaren then worked an opening for McIntosh who was just beaten to the ball by Marks and in another Preston attack, McIntosh beat Pryde for pace only for Marks to leap to his right and bring off a great save.

At the other end, Gooch's only alarm in the opening quarter-of-an-hour was when he coolly caught Scott's header!

It came as no surprise when North End went further ahead after 20 minutes. McIntosh fed Finney and his cross found McLaren but as he shaped to shoot, he was well tackled by Tomlinson. The ball broke loose to FINNEY and he coolly lobbed the ball over the advancing Marks. North End almost scored again on the half-hour mark but McIntosh's shot which beat Marks, was headed off the line by Bob Pryde.

As the first-half drew to a close, Venters' snap shot from fully 30 yards almost caught Jimmy Gooch unawares but scraped the outside of the North End keeper's left-hand post.

Only three minutes of the second-half had been played when North End went 3-0 up. Finney flicked the ball inside to McLAREN who promptly lashed in an unstoppable knee-high volley just inside the post.

Rovers almost pulled a goal back within minutes but Oakes' drive came back off the woodwork, whilst at the other end both Finney and Calverley failed to put the finishing touch to a fine right-wing move involving McIntosh and Shankly.

Then in the 55th minute, Rovers reduced the arrears. Jimmy Gooch was forced into making a fine full length save from OAKES, who then followed up to force the ball over the line. The Blackburn winger almost netted a second moments later, Gooch turning his full-blooded drive round the post. Rovers' keeper Marks was not to be outdone and he made an outstanding save to deny Willie McIntosh. The Preston forward then missed an open goal when he seemed certain to score.

Rovers scored a second goal in the 79th minute when Langton's cross found GRAHAM almost on the goal-line and he bundled the ball into the net. But it was North End rather than Rovers who had the better chances in the hard fought closing stages.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 2 Preston North End 3

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Oakes Graham)
PNE (Shankly (pen) Finney McLaren)

Attendance
46,874

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
G.Marks R.Tomlinson G.Higgins J.Baldwin
R.Pryde E.Bell J.Oakes L.Graham
V.Godwin A.Venters R.Langton
Preston North End
J.Gooch D.Gray W.Scott B.Shankly
E.Williams J.Horton T.Finney A.McLaren
W.McIntosh R.Beattie A.Calverley

What the papers said
Viator in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End gave themselves a lot of needless anxiety at Ewood by wasting a handful of scoring chances and allowing the Rovers to cut down a three goal lead to one. But while the final margin was slender, only the extreme partisan would deny North End were superior in craft, purpose and variety of ideas. Rovers' chief assets were pace and resolution plus ability to snap up chances which had North End possessed it, would have yielded more goals'.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 13th December 1947

McIntosh goal separates the sides.

Final Score
Blackpool 0 Preston North End 1

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (-)
PNE (McIntosh)

Attendance
29,587

Line-ups
Blackpool
J.Wallace E.Shimwell R.Suart H.Kelly
E.Hayward H.Johnston S.Matthews
G.McKnight S.Mortensen W.Buchan
J.McIntosh
Preston North End
J.Gooch D.Gray W.Robertson
B.Shankly E.Williams J.Horton T.Finney
R.Beattie W.McIntosh A.McLaren
H.Anders

What the papers said

Viator in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'As is usual in struggles between local rivals, excessive vigour and sly tricks crept in despite the referee's obvious intention to impose firm control - yet although I saw various undetected or condoned offences, I would say it was ultra-keeness to frustrate rather than viciousness that was responsible for the crop of bumps and spills'.

Preston North End avenged last season's 4-0 defeat at Bloomfield Road with a well-deserved 1-0 win.

In a dour first-half, both sides were lucky to get through to the interval with a full complement of players, as the game threatened to get out of hand. Fortunately no-one was seriously hurt despite the ruthless tackling employed by both sides.

Though Matthews and Finney displayed adroitness and artistry, creating chances for Mortensen and McIntosh respectively, it was too furious an affair for the England wingmen to shine.

Probably the only goalscoring chance of the first-half fell to North End's Bobby Beattie who receiving the ball from Finney with his back to goal, spun round and powered in a tremendous drive which Jock Wallace held at the second attempt.

After the interval, Blackpool mounted attack after attack with Matthews as the instigator. He created a great chance for Mortensen but the usually reliable Seasiders' forward shot wide of what was virtually an open goal. It was Mortensen's only chance of the game as Emlyn Williams blotted out the speedy raider. Though Matthews was now seeing much more of the ball, the home side weren't creating that many chances and were resorting to long range shots. One shot from McKnight forced Jimmy Gooch to turn the ball over the bar, whilst Buchan's effort from out wide on the left whistled into the side-netting. Gooch was called into action again on the hour-mark when Robertson's back-pass was weakly hit, allowing McKnight a sight of goal. But before he could get in a shot, Gooch had dived bravely at his feet to smother the ball.

North End then found their form and as the pace of the game quickened, they began to dominate play. Both McLaren and Anders went close before Wallace was forced to turn the ball behind for a corner after Beattie had got his head to a Finney cross.

Willie McINTOSH, who had been going through a lean patch in recent weeks, found his shooting boots and put North End into the lead with a well-placed shot from the edge of the area after good work by Shankly.

McIntosh then went on a fine solo run but is final shot scraped the outside of Wallace's left-hand upright with the keeper beaten.

There never really looked like being any other scoring. Matthews continued to have plenty of the ball, but hard as he tried to create openings and put some confidence into an ineffective attack, no-one it appears would shoot!

Willie McIntosh and Team-mates, 1947.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Friday 26th December 1947

Revenge is sweet!

Burnley had the opportunity of establishing a record for undefeated away games in this Boxing Day clash but went down at Deepdale by the odd goal in five. The man who shattered the Clarets' chances was their former centre-forward Harry Jackson, transferred to North End from Manchester City on Christmas Eve and brought in to lead the attack at the last minute when it was discovered that McIntosh was unfit.

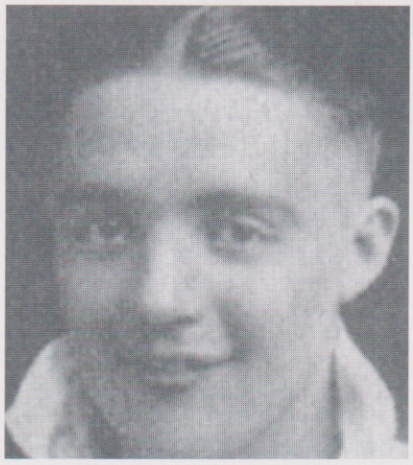
North End went into the game with every intention of wiping out memories of their last-minute defeat at Turf Moor on Christmas Day. They must have felt that they had gone a long way to accomplishing this when they opened the scoring in the first few minutes.

Woodruff appeared to have time to clear a loose ball comfortably but allowed Jackson to take the ball off his toes. He made off down the wing, whipped across a centre which deflected off Brown to the feet of McLAREN who had nothing to do but drive it past the helpless Strong.

Burnley almost drew level when centre-half Alan Brown lofted the ball forward from the half-way line. It bounced over Jimmy Gooch's head but the North End keeper just managed to get back and touch it past the post in highly undignified style for a corner. It came as no surprise when just before half-time, the Clarets equalised. Bray took a quick free-kick, transferring the ball out to Hays, who played a short pass inside to BILLINGHAM. The Burnley centre-forward ran forward and scored with a cross-shot from an acute angle.

Though the visitors had the better chances during the early stages of the second-half with Knight and Potts both going close, it was North End who took the lead midway through the half.

Bad covering by the Burnley defence enabled Garth to cross the ball. Jackson let it go to McLAREN who scored his and North End's second goal. Minutes later, Preston were 3-1 up when Brown dwelled on the ball too long and then mishit his clearance as he was challenged by Anders. The ball fell to JACKSON who saw his left foot shot enter the net off the underside of the bar.



Andy McClaren

Hays, who had received a leg injury early in the game, crossed for Billingham but the Burnley player's header was well saved by Gooch. Knight then missed two clear-cut chances to reduce the arrears before BRAY scored the Clarets' second goal, sweeping the ball home following a free-kick on the right. In the closing stages, Potts got the ball in the net but the 'goal' was disallowed after handball by Knight.

It was not a thrilling match but it had sufficient snatches of excitement in it to lift it above the usual scrappy encounter between two teams in the running for possible honours.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Burnley 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (McLaren 2 Jackson)
Burnley (Billingham Bray)

Attendance
39,400

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Gooch D.Gray W.Scott B.Shankly
E.Williams J.Horton T.Finney J.Garth
H.Jackson A.McLaren H.Anders
Burnley
J.Strong A.Woodruff H.Mather
R.Attwell A.Brown G.Bray J.Chew
H.Potts J.Billingham J.Knight J.Hays

What the papers said
Sportsman writing in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'For those who expected the duels between Finney and Mather to be a highlight, these interludes were a disappointment. They think a great deal of Finney at Deepdale and rightly so. However, to some sections of the crowd he is in the class of stars who, they consider should be left to twinkle without let or hindrance'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 21st February 1948

Late Finney penalty wins the day.

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Blackburn Rovers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (McLaren Finney (pen))
Backburn R (Crossan)

Attendance
31,735

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Gooch D.Gray W.Scott W.Brown
E.Williams J.Horton T.Finney R.Beattie
W.McIntosh A.Mclaren H.Jackson
Blackburn Rovers
G.Marks G.Higgins E.Bell J.Baldwin
R.Pryde H.Horton J.Campbell E.Crossan
L.Graham E.Murphy R.Langton

What the papers said
Viator in the Lancashire Evening post wrote 'The Rovers were like tigers in the tackle and North End aided the opposition rather than themselves by bunching and playing too slow. They could not find any cohersion as a result and in the vicinity of goal they had no bite in finishing'.

Bill Shankly was missing from the home side. He was rested and so missed his first match of the season, though Tom Finney returned to the North End attack.

Langton's persistence forced Gray to concede a corner in the opening minute of the game. North End's marking was not too certain under pressure and a desperate, if well-judged, one-handed save by Jimmy Gooch denied the visitors. Horton could have scored on eight minutes but the North End keeper was quickly off his line to dive at the wing-half's feet. Five minutes later, Gooch was called into action again as Horton tried his luck from distance.

North End's first real attack of note didn't come until the 19th minute when McIntosh played in Finney and only a last-ditch tackle by Pryde prevented the winger from opening the scoring.

Rovers came back strongly and Gooch saved well from Graham. Langton then cut inside Gray and unleashed a powerfully struck right-foot shot which the North End keeper turned round the post. At the other end, Beattie tried to force his way through the crowded penalty area but only succeeded in running into Baldwin. The Blackburn defender also halted McLaren in his tracks after he had broken clear of the Rovers' back line.

North End took the lead just before half-time when McLAREN fastened on to Finney's through ball and shot past the advancing George Marks. Finney was putting in a lot of good work which was fruitless owing to the compactness of the Rovers' defence in packing the goalmouth.

Rovers eventually drew level midway through the second-half when Langton's long ball over the heads of the North End defenders found CROSSAN. He shook off the challenges of Gray and Scott and retained sufficient strength and composure to beat the oncoming Gooch with a low shot that went in off the keeper's left-hand post.

North End then had a concerted spell of attacking football, with both Beattie and McIntosh coming close to giving the Whites the lead. Beattie curled a 25 yard free-kick inches wide of Marks' right-hand upright and McIntosh headed a Jackson cross onto the roof of the net.

Preston won the game in the closing stages when a free-kick by Horton was fisted out by Marks straight to Beattie. He lobbed an accurate shot over the helpless Marks to where three defenders had gathered under the bar. The ball was going in when Baldwin turned it over the bar with his right hand.

FINNEY duly struck the spot-kick away as the referee blew the whistle for full-time.

PRESTON
NORTH
END
FC
GREETINGS
TOM FINNEY
PRESTON NORTH END AND ENGLAND

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Tom Finney was powerless to stop defeat in this clash against the Seasiders.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 1st May 1948

Former favourite McIntosh nets five as Seasiders run riot.

The Seasiders arrived at Deepdale missing four first team regulars including Stanley Matthews and Stan Mortensen, whilst North End were without regular first team keeper Jimmy Gooch.

North End had the better of the opening exchanges with the mercurial Finney mesmerising Crosland and Kelly before setting up McLaren who shot into the side netting. McLaren went close again minutes later but Blackpool's Hugh Kelly managed to block the inside forward's goalbound shot. Finney, who was giving Crosland a torrid time, forced Robinson into two fine saves but midway through the first-half in what was their first real attack of the game, Blackpool took the lead. A cross from Rickett was met by McINTOSH, his header being fumbled over the line by North End keeper Willie Hall. Five minutes later, Rickett should have extended the Seasiders lead but he shot wide with only Hall to beat.

Just before the interval, North End thought they had equalised. McLaren's lob from the edge of the area, cleared Robinson but Shimwell headed the ball to safety. North End centre-forward Harry Jackson thought the ball had already crossed the line but his appeals were in vain.

The second-half was virtually dominated by the Seasiders. McClure and Rickett had wasted good goalscoring opportunities when McINTOSH, collecting a through ball from Munro, netted his and the visitors' second goal.

Hall's day went from bad to worse in the 56th minute when he gifted Blackpool another goal, allowing RICKETT's low shot from 30 yards to creep under his body. McINTOSH completed his hat-trick with a fine individual goal before McClure and McLaren wasted opportunities for North End.

The Seasiders went further ahead after 73 minutes when MUNRO's long range shot beat Hall all ends up. The North End fans were now leaving Deepdale in their numbers but those who stayed witnessed two further goals from their former favourite, Willie McIntosh.

McINTOSH's fourth goal on 81 minutes was a result of good work by Hobson and Kelly, finished off by a near post header. Blackpool's last goal came a few minutes later with McINTOSH again the scorer. His 20 yard shot was straight at Willie Hall but the hapless keeper again fumbled the ball, allowing it to cross the line to make the final score 7-0 to Blackpool.

It was North End's worst defeat for twenty years and unfortunately for them and the Deepdale faithful, it came against one of their local rivals.

Final Score
Preston North End 0 Blackpool 7

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (-)
Blackpool (McIntosh 5 Munro Rickett)

Attendance
26,610

Line-ups
Preston North End
W.Hall J.Walton W.Scott J.Horton P.Waters
W.Dougal T.Finney A.McLaren H.Jackson
W.Hannah W.McClure
Blackpool
J.Robinson E.Shimwell J.Crosland
W.Buchan E.Hayward H.Kelly A.Hobson
A.Munro W.McIntosh A.McCall W.Rickett

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 4th December 1948

North End fade after good start.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 5 Preston North End 3

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Bradley 2 Moir 2 Barrass)
PNE (Morrison 2 Knight)

Attendance
40,140

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
R.Elvy J.Roberts R.Banks D.Howe
M.Gillies D.Murphy T.Woodward W.Moir
M.Barrass J.Bradley H.McShane
Preston North End
M.Newlands J.Walton W.Scott W.Brown
W.Corbett J.Dougal W.McIntosh J.Knight
A.Morrison W.Hannah R.Langton

What the papers said
Viator in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End once again were seen to be in great need of a dominating figure in defence, someone who could steady and rally his side against waves of attacks by opponents whose thrustfulness had increased from their first success'.

North End arrived at Burnden Park from Morecambe, where they had been spending a few days away from the local football atmosphere. They introduced inside-forward Jack Knight, a new signing from Burnley.

Knight, McIntosh and Langton combined promisingly but delay in shooting resulted in a corner from Langton instead of a first-time shot. From this, Knight pushed the ball on to McIntosh who shot over. North End were by far the better side and the Wanderers were in difficulties when Elvy failed to take a back pass which Gillies made when harrassed by Hannah. Knight continued to impress and from his fine through-pass, Hannah hit the crossbar. North End deservedly took the lead after 16 minutes when another excellent through pass from Knight found Hannah, who promptly gave the ball to MORRISON, his left-foot drive beating Elvy all ends up.

Two minutes later, Morrison had a similar opportunity to the one from which he had scored but this time Elvy brought off a fine save.

North End's lead was wiped out five minutes later when McShane rounded Walton and Brown before crossing for BRADLEY to beat Newlands from close range. The goal gave the Wanderers the incentive they needed and after Newlands had saved a powerful header from Barrass, BRADLEY netted his and Bolton's second goal after the North End keeper had failed to hold another header from the Bolton No.9.

North End should have equalised on 40 minutes but McIntosh passed to Knight instead of shooting and the chance was lost.

There was another blow for North End on the stroke of half-time when Bradley's free-kick found the head of Willie MOIR and he beat Newlands with ease.

North End's defence still looked full of holes as the second-half got underway and both Barrass and Bradley wasted good opportunities.

McIntosh was then caught offside and incurred the referee's displeasure for kicking the ball out of play. Minutes later, McIntosh was again adjudged offside and he received derisive cheers when he showed he could shoot into an empty goal! Corbett then conceded a free-kick for a foul and McShane placed the ball to the far post where BARRASS headed home Bolton's fourth goal after 56 minutes. Bolton continued to look the more likely to score and MOIR rounded off a good move involving Howe and Woodward.

North End were conceding far too many free-kicks and from one of these, Moir was robbed of a hat-trick when Newlands turned the ball round the post. KNIGHT scored a beautiful individual goal on 83 minutes and two minutes from the finish, he paved the way for MORRISON to make the score 5-3 with a coolly taken goal.

Jack Knight, one of many players to play for more than one Lancashire club.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Friday 7th April 1950

Good Friday win for weakened North End.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 2 Preston North End 3

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Moore Graham)
PNE (Beattie 2 Brown)

Attendance
42,891

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
J.Patterson D.Gray B.Eckersley
J.Campbell W.Holt E.Bell J.Wharton
E.Crossan N.Moore L.Graham E.Edds
Preston North End
J.Gooch J.Walton W.Scott T.Docherty
H.Mattinson W.Forbes T.Finney R.Beattie
E.Brown E.Quigley H.Anders

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington writing in the Lancashire Evening Post said 'This was yet another match Rovers should not have lost. Yet great credit went to North End for their resolute recovery. Their refashioned attack had more craft, purpose and opportunism than the Rovers'

Relegated to the Second Division the previous season, North End's away form had been a huge disappointment and contributed to the lack of a serious challenge on promotion. However, there was some consolation in North End's Good Friday victory over local rivals Blackburn Rovers.

Though the home side played with the strong wind at their backs in the first-half, it was North End who took the lead after just 11 minutes when Bobby BEATTIE latched on to Docherty's pass and hit a powerful shot well out of Patterson's reach. Rovers pushed forward in search of an equaliser but Gooch was equal to anything the home side's attack had to offer. Half-an-hour had been played when Joe Walton twisted his knee in an innocuous looking challenge, forcing Quigley to drop back to right-back whilst Walton moved onto the wing.

Towards the end of the first-half, the North End defence came under heavy pressure from a Rovers side determined to draw level but held out to go in at the interval with a one-goal lead.

Within minutes of the restart, Rovers scored the goal their first-half display deserved when an inswinging corner by Edds led to MOORE outjumping Quigley at the far post and heading over the outstretched hands of Jimmy Gooch.

Though Rovers were now on top, two defensive mistakes enabled North End to snatch a two-goal lead midway through the second-half. A cross by Anders was flicked on by the injured Walton to BROWN, whose first time shot beat Patterson in the Rovers' goal. Three minutes later, Finney's high ball into the penalty area wasn't cleared properly and Forbes headed to the unmarked BEATTIE who took his chance with consummate ease.

Rovers attacked in numbers and Bell crashed a terrific drive against the crossbar with Gooch well beaten. Crossan's through ball fell to Graham who glanced a shot off the face of the near post with North End keeper Jimmy Gooch again a spectator. The home side eventually reduced the arrears in the 80th minute when GRAHAM's half-hit shot was helped over the line by Eddie Quigley as the North Ender tried desperately to clear the danger.

As the game drew to a close, both sides had claims for a penalty turned down. Tom Finney was upended twice in the area and Bill Eckersley appeared to handle the ball right under the referee's nose whilst at the other end, Quigley brought down Moore as he shaped to shoot.

Willie Forbes helped North End to an Easter victory over Blackburn Rovers.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Monday 10th April 1950

Another brace for Beattie in Easter double.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackburn Rovers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Beattie 2 Quigley)
Blackburn R (Edds)

Attendance
27,925

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Gooch W.Cunningham W.Scott T.Docherty
H.Mattinson W.Robertson T.Finney R.Beattie
E.Brown E.Quigley H.Anders
Blackburn Rovers
J.Patterson R.Stuart B.Eckersley J.Campbell
W.Holt E.Bell R.McCaig L.Graham N.Moore
H.Horton E.Edds

What the papers said

Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening post wrote 'Vile weather cost Preston North probably £1,000 in gate money at their return home game with Blackburn Rovers, for the attendance was at least 10,000 smaller than would have been there on a normal spring afternoon. Gales and storms, rain and hail made the conditions extremely unpleasant for players and spectators alike and the pitch was three parts flooded before the start'.

Following Preston's 3-2 win at Ewood Park on Good Friday, Blackburn Rovers came to Deepdale on Easter Monday, hoping for revenge.

The Easter weekend had seen gales and storms batter the north-west and Deepdale was almost fully under water! As the teams came out, the sun tried to break through but with Rovers playing into a strong head wind, heavy rain began to fall again!

North End almost scored in their first attack of the game when Eddie Brown's shot was turned onto the bar by Rovers' keeper John Patterson. As the ball came back into play, Beattie was a little too slow to react allowing Patterson to dive on top of it and stop the inside-forward's half-hearted effort. There were a number of occasions when the ball stuck in the pools of water gathering on the Deepdale pitch and there is little doubt that in today's game the match would have been called off.

Despite the conditions, the game was end to end and three minutes before half-time, North End took the lead. A long ball out of defence by Willie Cunningham fell kindly for Eddie Brown who crossed to the far post. Eddie QUIGLEY brought the ball under control before firing hard and low past Patterson in the Rovers' goal to give the Whites a deserved lead at the interval.

The second-half got underway in a blinding storm of hail and sleet but it didn't deter North End, who went further ahead after just two minutes of the restart. Eddie Quigley tricked his way past three Rovers defenders before squaring the ball to Bobby BEATTIE who was left with just a simple tap-in.

Rovers were then pinned back in their own half with wave after wave of attack coming from the inspired North End team. The visitors' keeper made a number of fine saves from Docherty and Scott in particular but on 54 minutes, the Whites went 3-0 up. Anders began the move by playing a neat hooked pass to Quigley whose cross glanced off Bell before falling to BEATTIE who promptly drove the ball past Patterson. It was the Scotsman's fourth goal against Rovers in just four days!

Though Rovers had the wind at their backs, they didn't reduce the arrears until the 78th minute when Graham bat Cunningham for pace before crossing to the feet of EDDS. Gathering the ball on the run, he shot high into the roof of the net past the advancing Gooch.

There is no doubt that the Easter weekend had belonged to North End and Bobby Beattie.

Eddie Quigley.

Tommy Docherty was a stalwart of the post-war Preston North End side.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 24th March 1951

North End equal club record.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Forbes Gray og Beattie)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
39,122

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Gooch W.Cunningham W.Scott
T.Docherty J.Marston W.Forbes T.Finney
J.Horton C.Wayman R.Beattie A.Morrison
Blackburn Rovers
J.Patterson D.Gray B.Eckersley H.Horton
W.Holt E.Bell J.Wharton L.Graham
J.Harris P.Todd W.Fenton

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'This triumph on a boisterous day which made good football difficult to play, was not achieved without a hard fight, for the Rovers until they were two goals behind, fought manfully to avoid their third successive defeat'.

Decisively beating old rivals Blackburn Rovers at Deepdale, North End extended their sequence of victories to 12 - one short of the club record - and brought the total of wins to 23, which equals the highest return in any of Preston's seasons of League football.

With the wind at their backs, Rovers almost took the lead straight from the kick-off. Graham delivered a through pass to the highly promising young centre-forward Harris and his shot on the run forced Gooch to turn the ball round for a corner. Within a minute, Charlie Wayman had a similar opening from which he shot wide. The North End forward had another chance shortly afterwards but headed Finney's cross straight into the arms of Patterson. Rovers should have taken the lead after 11 minutes when Fenton's cross beat Gooch in the air to leave Harris facing a gaping goal but somehow the Irishman headed inches over!

Eventually North End got into their stride and on 25 minutes, they took the lead. FORBES was almost 30 yards out when he tried a snap shot. It seemed to surprise Patterson who got his hands to the stinging shot but was unable to hold it. The home side then had a number of opportunities to extend their lead with Wayman, Beattie and Morrison all bringing fine saves out of the Rovers' keeper.

Finney, whose heading ability was often overlooked in admiration of his footwork, outjumped the Rovers keeper to a Morrison cross but his header was cleared off the line by Bell. In the final minute of the first-half, Rovers almost drew level but Fenton failed to connect with a cross from Graham.

North End were soon bidding for a second goal and Patterson had to dive to stop a sudden back pass made in desperation by Holt. Six minutes after the restart, former North Ender GRAY had the misfortune to put through his own goal. Morrison placed a corner to the far post where Horton headed the ball back across the face of the goal. Two or three players went up for it together but in trying to clear, the Rovers' full-back headed it the wrong way!

Preston's superiority was rewarded with a third goal in the 78th minute with BEATTIE scoring with a header from a perfectly taken free-kick by Morrison. Two minutes from time, Horton shot narrowly wide of an open goal from Wayman's pass and then Patterson saved magnificently from Finney and Eckersley cleared off the line from the winger's return effort.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 10th September 1951

Own goals help North End complete the double.

The Seasiders were decisively beaten before a record crowd. And to a Preston North End side who had lost at home two days earlier against a team with the Championship look, Newcastle United.

Blackpool's Ewan Fenton was denied release by the Army authorities at the last moment after deputising for injured skipper Harry Johnston in the previous game and was replaced by John Crosland. As it turned out, much hinged on this enforced substitution. A misplaced pass by him in the opening minutes gave Morrison a clear run on goal, but a fine interception by Hayward saved the day for the home side. Then CROSLAND in trying to turn the ball back to his keeper, screwed his pass wide of Farm to put North End 1-0 up.

Moments later, Blackpool had the chance to draw level but Scott, standing on the goal-line coolly cleared Perry's shot with Gooch beaten.

The home side continued to push forward in search of the equaliser but found Jimmy Gooch equal to anything the Blackpool forwards could throw at him - Matthews worked his way along the by-line before pulling the ball back for Mortensen to put in a well-struck shot that Gooch turned round the post. Then the North End keeper did well to hold on to a McIntosh header albeit at the second attempt.

Shortly before half-time, Crosland was deceived by a smart, triangular move on the left, this allowing QUIGLEY the time and space he needed to pick his spot and put North End two goals to the good.

When the teams came out for the second-half. Crosland had moved to his more customary position of centre-half but was fated to be also involved in the third goal. He and Hayward went together to intercept a fast, accurate drive by Morrison but after they got in each other's way, the ball struck HAYWARD and was deflected past the hapless Farm.

Charlie Wayman.

At the other end, Withers missed an open goal but then Blackpool found themselves overrun by a North End side who looked more impressive as the game progressed. Those who departed early missed two desperate goal-line saves with Farm helpless. One shot by Wayman hit the underside of the crossbar and Farm made a fortunate save in the ensuing scramble.

With a white ball being used to effect the gathering dusk, two or three good chances were lost through indecision or inaccuracy in finishing.

Final Score
Blackpool 0 Preston North End 3

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (-)
PNE (Quigley Crosland og Hayward og)

Attendance
36,120

Line-ups
Blackpool
G.Farm E.Shimwell J.Wright J.Crosland
E.Hayward H.Kelly S.Matthews
S.Mortensen W.McIntosh A.Withers
B.Perry
Preston North End
J.Gooch W.Cunningham W.Scott
T.Docherty J.Marston W.Forbes T.Finney
R.Beattie C.Wayman E.Quigley A.Morrison

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'The methods of the sides were starkly contrasted in Preston's favour. North End's policy as usual was a fast, short-passing game with the ball kept on the ground as much as possible. By comparison, Blackpool were aimless, if one excludes the purpose behind booting the ball down the middle and chasing it'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Thursday 1st January 1953

Blackpool rally is too late.

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Blackpool 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Morrison 2 Finney Wayman)
Blackpool (Hobson Perry)

Attendance
30,696

Line-ups
Preston North End
G.Thompson W.Cunningham W.Scott
T.Docherty J.Marston J.Dunn T.Finney
D.Lewis C.Wayman J.Baxter A.Morrison
Blackpool
G.Farm E.Shimwell T.Garrett H.Johnston
J.Crosland H.Kelly A.Hobson E.Taylor
S.Mortensen A.Brown B.Perry

What the papers said
The Lancashire Evening Post's Walter Pilkington wrote 'The game teemed with exciting incidents, offered rich variety in style, ideas and execution and would have yielded more than six goals but for extraordinary escapes - most of which benefited Blackpool'.

Maintaining their December mood, Preston North End added Blackpool to their victims in this Deepdale clash and in doing so, gained 13 of the last 14 points at stake.

Their rivals were overwhelmed by a surge of irresistible form in a match which even the visitors' disappointed followers must have enjoyed!

North End went close on two occasion before eventually taking the lead. Tom Finney's pin-point cross picked out Wayman but the Preston centre-forward's header went inches outside Farm's left-hand post. Then Finney himself broke clear and rounded the Scottish international keeper before sliding his shot against the post. The home side deservedly went ahead when MORRISON latched on to a Finney pass, beat Shimwell and curled in a great goal.

The North End wingers were in fine form and MORRISON netted his and Preston's second minutes later, again following good work by Finney.

Farm then made a couple of good saves from Finney and Wayman as North End threatened to add to their total but when he was beaten by a Baxter shot, Garrett was on the line to head clear.

Blackpool were hardly in the game as an attacking force, just a long range shot from Bill Perry troubling Thompson in the first-half.

Finney and Baxter combined well their skill and subtlety causing all sorts of problems for the Seasiders' defence and it came as no surprise when FINNEY made it 3-0 with a fine individual goal - cutting in from the right before unleashing a powerful shot past the despairing dive of George Farm. His chief co-conspirator Jimmy Baxter made Preston's fourth goal midway through the second-half, his defence-splitting pass finding WAYMAN who shot under Farm as he advanced off his line.

Blackpool then produced a late rally which brought them two goals, both made by Harry Johnston. After good work by Ernie Taylor, Johnston threaded a pass through for HOBSON to beat North End's offside trap and slot the ball past Thompson. Minutes later, Johnston won a 50-50 challenge on the edge of the box before shooting hard and low to Thompson's right. The North End keeper made a fine save but the ball ran loose to Bill PERRY who lashed the ball home from close range.

In fact, the Seasiders looked dangerous in every attack after North End took their foot of the pedal and the crowd admired their determination as they refused to accept a hiding without reprisals.

Best Wishes
Joe Marston

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 25th March 1953

North End strengthen bid for Championship.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 0 Preston North End 3

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (-)
PNE (Lewis 2 Foster)

Attendance
22,173

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
S.Hanson R.Hartle R.Banks T.Neill M.Barrass
E.Bell D.Holden W.Moir J.Wheeler H.Hassall
R.Langton
Preston North End
G.Thompson W.Cunningham W.Scott
T.Docherty J.Marston J.Dunn R.Foster
D.Lewis C.Wayman J.Baxter A.Morrison

What the papers said
Writing in the Lancashire Evening Post, Ajax said 'Foster's promise could not have come at a better time, for with Finney now injured, the young deputy is on his mettle and on this showing would not let the side down'.

The Bolton club programme was printed with a blank space for North End's No.7 Finney's deputy, for the game at Burnden Park. But so adequately was it filled by Bobby Foster on his First Division debut in that position, that he and Lewis implemented their nippy raiding by claiming all the goals.

It may be hard to believe that Finney was not missed from a forward line which, after taking the whole of the first-half to get the measure of a good Bolton defence, in the second-half, overcame but never demoralised it.

Three chances offered and three accepted put North End back on top of the division with hopes of the League Championship much rosier.

However, there was nothing bright about the first-half. The first corner after 26 minutes was the nearest approach by either side to a challenge to the patience in unemployment of goalkeepers Hanson and Thompson. In this period, not one shot was fired! That the first-half was saved from drabness and North End led 1-0 at the interval was due to the industry of Charlie Wayman who worked his way in from the left and presented LEWIS with a simple chance from close range.

The second-half hadn't been underway long when Wayman laid on another chance for LEWIS. He had to work much harder this time, using his broad shoulders to brush off Bell's challenge before curling the ball round Hanson and into the net.

Bolton then came back into the game but both Moir and Wheeler missed good chances to reduce the arrears, with the Scottish international heading wide with only Thompson to beat and Wheeler missing his kick completely when put through by Langton. The Wanderers did have the ball in the Preston net on two occasions, both by the impressive Wheeler, but both efforts were ruled out for offside.

North End scored a third goal towards the end of the game when FOSTER's first time drive from fully 30 yards out caught Hanson unawares. Though the Bolton keeper made a valiant late effort, he only succeeded in helping the ball over the line.

The home side attacked in force fort he final few minutes of the game but they badly missed their England international centre-forward Nat Lofthouse as a further couple of chances went begging. On the one occasion that Thompson was beaten, North End full-back Willie Cunningham cleared Willie Moir's shot off the line.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Tommy Docherty.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Angus Morrison.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 26th September 1953

Thompson the hero after early Bolton goal.

Signed from Scunthorpe United, it had taken time for goalkeeper George Thompson to bridge the gap between Third and First Division football. In his first season with the club he was involved in the infamous accident which ultimately cost Derek Dooley of Sheffield Wednesday his leg, but by now, the courageous keeper's ability was taken for granted.

Yet it all looked so different after the Wanderers had taken the lead on just 27 seconds - the fastest goal in that season's First Division. A long ball out of defence by Barrass was volleyed high into the North End net by Willie MOIR to put the visitors 1-0 up.

The Wanderers could have extended their lead on five minutes but the unmarked Parry saw his intended scoring shot veer wide of the target. Then Lofthouse headed wide of an open goal under challenge from Marston as the visitors continued to dominate the early exchanges.

Then against the run of play, North End equalised after 18 minutes when Finney's cross was headed on by Morrison to Charlie WAYMAN who was the quickest to react in a packed six-yard area. This inspired the home side and Hatsell came close to converting a Finney cross before Wayman shot into the side-netting with Stan Hanson out of position. North End took the lead seven minutes before half-time when Finney was upended in the area by Tommy Banks and the referee awarded a penalty. BAXTER took the spot-kick, blasting the ball wide of Hanson's left-hand.

Bolton could have drawn level just before the interval when Holden beat Cunningham for speed but there was no-one there to apply the finishing touch.

Bolton tried to repeat their first minute success at the start of the second-half but Thompson anticipated Holden's through ball and snatched it off Lofthouse's toes. Minutes later, the Bolton centre-forward tried his luck from distance, Thompson saving at the second attempt. Then came the save of the match as Lofthouse's bullet-like header was turned over the bar by the acrobatic Thompson.

Wayman almost extended North End's lead but his shot was well held by Hanson. But then on 72 minutes, North End did score a third goal after Hanson missed Finney's deep cross to the far post and HATSELL headed into an empty net.

Bolton came back strongly in the closing stages with Moir hitting the post from close range and Parry's powerful shot passing inches wide of Thompson's left-hand post.There is no doubt that George Thompson's saves were the turning point in a game which Preston won comfortably but could have lost.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Bolton Wanderers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Wayman Baxter (pen) Hatsell)
Bolton W (Moir)

Attendance
39,553

Line-ups
Preston North End
G.Thompson W.Cunningham J.Walton
H.Mattinson J.Marston J.Dunn T.Finney
D.Hatsell C.Wayman J.Baxter A.Morrison
Bolton Wanderers
S.Hanson J.Ball T.Banks J.Wheeler
M.Barrass E.Bell D.Holden W.Moir
N.Lofthouse D.Stevens R.Parry

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Marston, even more dominant than Barrass was a redoubtable figure in severely restricting Nat Lofthouse the England centre-forward's goalscoring opportunities. Thankfully for North End, the determination invariably seen in Marston's play was not just confined to him'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 26th December 1953

Penalty miss turns the game.

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Wayman 2)
Burnley (McIlroy)

Attendance
32,416

Line-ups
Preston North End
G.Thompson W.Cunningham J.Walton
T.Docherty J.Marston J.Forbes E.Jones
R.Foster C.Wayman J.Baxter A.Morrison
Burnley
D.Thompson J.Aird H.Mather R.Seith
T.Cummings R.Attwell B.Gray J.McIlroy
B.Holden L.Shannon B.Pilkington

What the papers said
Sportsman of the Burnley Express wrote 'After the game I heard a North End supporter rather damp the jubilant chatter of a companion by saying "It's all very well but we have our goalkeeper to thank for the points today." And there is not a Burnley opponent in the stands or on the terraces who would not agree with him'.

The Clarets missed a great opportunity of completing their first post-war Christmas 'double' and advancing to third place in the First Division. It was a hard fought game on a drenched turf which churned up to such an extent that the long ball became the best option of winning the game.

There was a combined cup-tie and Christmas atmosphere about the game and this was evident before the start when some young North End supporters placed a large balloon on the centre-spot and were immediately challenged by a couple of Burnley fans - one of whom caused a roar of amusement by falling flat on his face in the mud! The visitors emerged victorious complete with a North End scarf as a spoil of the battle!

There was a cup-tie more than a Christmas spirit about the opening exchanges with Willie Cunningham having both Shannon and Pilkington limping following strong challenges by the North End full-back. Both players recovered sufficiently to play a considerable part in the opening stages of the match as the Clarets, who'd won 2-1 in the first meeting at Turf Moor on Christmas Day, went all out for the game's opening goal.

As the half wore on, North End came back into the game and Burnley keeper Des Thompson, the brother of the North End custodian, George, was the busier of the two keepers. However, it was the visitors who took the lead after 27 minutes when Pilkington's corner was headed in at the near post by Jimmy McILROY. North End went straight down the other end and Foster's shot was cleared off the line by Mather but as the half-time whistle sounded, the Clarets must have felt satisfied with their interval lead.

Early after the restart, Burnley almost extended their lead. Bill Holden burst through the middle to be brought down just outside the area by Joe Marston. From the free-kick, a hectic scramble developed and both McIlroy and Shannon had shots charged down. Les Shannon had another goalbound shot saved on the line by Willie Cunningham but he was adjudged to have handled the ball and the Clarets were awarded a penalty.

The normally reliable Billy Gray sent George Thompson the wrong way, but the ball cannoned off the post with the usual fierce unsuccessful post-penalty scramble!

North End then threw caution to the wind and WAYMAN, of whom little had been seen, scrambled Jones' cross over the line from close range. Then Jones hit the crossbar, the ball rebounding to WAYMAN who bent low to head North End into the lead.

North End keeper George Thompson was injured in a goalmouth melee and resumed limping, unable to take his goal-kicks but he still managed to be in the right place at the right time as Preston hung on for two vital points.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Jimmy Baxter.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

George Thompson

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Tuesday 30th March 1954

Seasiders have upper hand in Bloomfield Road thriller.

Preston North End visited Blackpool for a postponed League match, hoping to avenge an earlier defeat at Deepdale.

Unfortunately, the two most noted performers for these two rivals, Matthews and Finney were absent. Matthews had a leg injury and Finney had gone to Scotland in readiness for the international match at Hampden Park.

The Seasiders were more enterprising and more dangerous and with just five minutes played, took the lead with a delightful goal by TAYLOR, who chipped home from the edge of the box after Perry had back-heeled the ball into his path. Moments later, Durie forced Thompson to save against the angle of post and bar with a sudden, hard rising shot.

The only threat meanwhile to Blackpool followed a free-kick, Morrison heading in from Baxter's lobbed pass for Wyllie to save.

North End then began to find their feet and Jones found Foster with a pin-point cross from which he forced Wyllie into making a save at the foot of the post. FOSTER then levelled the scores after 11 minutes, following a quick inter-passing movement involving Docherty, Wayman and Jones. A minute later, North End were ahead when WAYMAN struck from close range after Morrison and Baxter had combined well. Blackpool almost equalised straight from the restart but Mattinson's tackle thwarted Perry as he shaped to shoot.

However, the Seasiders were level on 18 minutes with another goal by TAYLOR. North End were waiting for an offside decision after Fenton had played the Blackpool forward through but he was allowed to go on unchallenged, picked his spot and shot a fine goal with a low oblique shot into the far corner.

Blackpool regained the lead on the half-hour mark when Perry wrested a corner from Mattinson and DURIE, with no-one near enough to harass him, went up higher than Thompson to head a good goal. There was no doubt that the North End keeper lost the ball in the dazzling sunshine.

At the other end, Wyllie saved at full stretch from Jones and Thompson made amends with a good save from a Mortensen header following a centre by Perry.

Within a minute of the restart, Thompson had to be alert in rushing from his goal to save at the feet of Bill Perry, whilst Preston's Eric Jones saw his looping header cleared off the line by Johnston.

Mortensen broke clear of Mattinson's challenge but his shot, hurriedly taken, was inches wide. It wasn't long though before MORTENSEN got his name on the scoresheet, shooting through a crowd of players to make it 4-2.

Preston pushed forward in search of further goals but Blackpool had an able deputy for Farm in Wyllie, who made a couple of good saves in the closing stages from Foster and Wayman respectively.

Final Score
Blackpool 4 Preston North End 2

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Taylor 2 Durie Mortensen)
PNE (Baxter (pen) Wayman)

Attendance
16,674

Line-ups
Blackpool
R.Wyllie R.Gratrix W.Wright E.Fenton
H.Johnston H.Kelly S.Matthews
E.Taylor S.Mortensen D.Durie B.Perry
Preston North End
G.Thompson H.Mattinson J.Walton
T.Docherty J.Marston J.Forbes E.Jones
R.Foster C.Wayman J.Baxter
A.Morrison

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Blackpool, who always play a more open type of football were the better moving, more composed side. They gave a bright exhibition of fast, purposeful football, free from dawdling and full of enterprise'.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 29th October 1955

North End hit six in Bloomfield Road stroll.

Final Score
Blackpool 2 Preston North End 6

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Fenton (pen) Farm)
PNE (Hatsell 2 Baxter Morrison Finney Thompson)

Attendance
25,692

Line-ups
Blackpool
G.Farm J.Armfield W.Wright E.Fenton
R.Gratrix H.Kelly S.Matthews E.Taylor
J.Mudie D.Durie B.Perry
Preston North End
G.Thompson W.Cunningham J.Walton
T.Docherty H.Mattinson J.Forbes
T.Finney T.Thompson D.Hatsell
J.Baxter A.Morrison

The free-scoring post-war trend in matches against the Seasiders was maintained in this Bloomfield Road clash and though the match was far from being a classic, it certainly wasn't dull as eight goals were scored!

In the 11th minute of this amazing match, Blackpool's Scottish international goalkeeper George Farm fell awkwardly after a mid-air collision, taking a blow on the elbow and paralysing his right arm. Shortly afterwards, he was unable to hold on to HATSELL's speculative shot from 25 yards, the ball crossing the line as he attempted to retrieve the situation. Another handling error on 23 minutes allowed Jimmy BAXTER to double North End's advantage.

Farm then left the field for treatment with full-back Jimmy Armfield going between the posts.

The Blackpool keeper returned on the half-hour mark with his right arm bent at the elbow and tightly bandaged but he didn't return between the posts, he went on his manager's request to play at centre-forward.

The Seasiders' defence continued to look suspect and it came as no surprise when Tommy THOMPSON made it 3-0 with a well-struck shot from the edge of the penalty area. Tom Finney's England colleague Stanley Matthews was causing the North End defence untold problems and it was from one of his crosses that the injured FARM surprised George Thompson in the North End goal by heading home from 12 yards out.

As the second-half got underway, the North End defenders began to hit long balls into the Blackpool half where Dennis Hatsell was running Gratrix ragged. It was from Joe Walton's long punt downfield that HATSELL netted his second goal of the game in the 68th minute, slotting the ball past the advancing Armfield.

The home side reduced the arrears soon afterwards when Ewan FENTON scored from the penalty spot after Cunningham was rather harshly adjudged to have fouled Stanley Matthews.

North End then went further ahead when MORRISON scored from close range before Tom FINNEY scored a magnificent sixth goal. Dribbling past one Blackpool defender after another, he worked his way into the box before shooting past a now rather dispirited Jimmy Armfield.

It is not very often that a team can give another a 2-0 start, lose its goalkeeper and expect to win, especially a local derby, yet North End were denied full credit for a good, battling performance that ended the Seasiders' unbeaten home record.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Harry Mattinson.

Tommy Thompson helped North End to a fine Christmas double over the Clarets.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Tuesday 27th December 1955

Finney inspires North End win.

North End completed the double over their Turf Moor rivals, winning 4-2 at Deepdale after their 2-1 success over the Clarets the previous day.

Burnley centre-half and acting captain Tommy Cummings who damaged his left calf in the previous game and played in pain for most of the ninety minutes, was surprisingly passed fit after X-Rays at the hospital!

North End shook the Clarets with an early goal, Thompson laying the ball off for FINNEY to fire past McDonald. The home side continued to dominate the game and both Lewis and Evans came close to extending North End's lad. Lewis headed inches over the bar from a Finney cross whilst Evans saw his shot from an oblique angle beat McDonald but pass inches the wrong side of the post.

Preston eventually went 2-0 up midway through the half when Taylor's cross to the near post was headed home by Tommy THOMPSON.

The Clarets hadn't been seen as an attacking force but they managed to pull a goal back five minutes before the interval when Les SHANNON volleyed home Pilkington's cross. It came completely against the run of play and inspired the visitors to push forward in numbers in search of an equalising goal. George Thompson in the North End goal hadn't had much to do, but he produced a fine save from Albert Cheesebrough on the stroke of half-time.

North End had a couple of chances to extend their lead in the opening quarter-of-an-hour of the second-half but both Lewis and Taylor fired straight at Colin McDonald. With Winton out of position, Finney had time and space to work his way into the Burnley box. Rudman came across to cover but in doing so, was adjudged to have handled the ball. FINNEY took the resultant spot-kick, sending McDonald the wrong way.

Burnley pulled a goal back just minutes later when full-back WINTON up joining the attack, rifled a shot past Thompson and into the roof of the net. This goal inspired the Clarets and they came close to drawing level when Stephenson outpaced Dunn and slipped the ball past the advancing Thompson, only to see Wilson race back and clear off the line.

In a rare North End attack towards the end of the game, the home side made sure of the points when Finney's cross was turned past his own keeper by future North End manager Bobby SEITH!

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Burnley 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Finney 2 (1 pen) Thompson Seith og)
Burnley (Shannon Winton)

Attendance
29,524

Line-ups
Preston North End
G.Thompson J.Wilson J.Walton T.Docherty
J.Dunn H.Mattinson T.Finney T.Thompson
E.Lewis R.Evans S.Taylor
Burnley
C.McDonald H.Rudman D.Winton R.Seith
T.Cummings L.Shannon B.Gray J.Walton
R.Stephenson A.Cheesebrough B.Pilkington

What the papers said
A Lancashire Evening Post Correspondent wrote 'Burnley hadn't the attacking poise of Preston and of course had no Tom Finney. The winger with an almost majestic ease played an important and artistic role in the direction of the North End attack'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 10th March 1956

Finney saves point with last kick of game.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackpool 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Waterhouse Thompson Finney)
Blackpool (Durie 2 Perry)

Attendance
38,085

Line-ups
Preston North End
G.Thompson W.Cunningham J.Walton
T.Docherty J.Dunn J.Forbes T.Finney
T.Thompson D.Hatsell K.Waterhouse
L.Campbell
Blackpool
G.Farm J.Armfield W.Wright J.Kelly
R.Gratrix H.Kelly S.Matthews E.Taylor
J.Mudie D.Durie B.Perry

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'In a rousing, keenly-waged struggle, there were many heartening features in North End's display which should give everyone - management, players and public - encouragement for the testing immediate future'.

Preston North End's faith in the side that fought hard but in vain at Highbury the previous week, was justified by a good performance against Championship-chasing Blackpool. In fact, it was no mean feat to score three goals against one of the best defences in the First Division, for that was Blackpool's standing on their achievements this season.

The Seasiders appreciated that they would do well to get a point in view of North End's even greater need of points, being near the foot of the table.

North End took an early lead when Finney's cross was turned in at the near post by WATERHOUSE and the Preston forward almost netted his and North End's second a minute later but his looped header landed on the roof of the net with Farm beaten.

Blackpool came back strongly and drew level midway through the half when Matthews and Taylor combined to put DURIE clear. He rounded Thompson with ease before side-footing the ball into the empty net. The Seasiders' forward was looking sharp and came close to scoring again moments later but Thompson blocked his effort with his legs before Cunningham cleared the danger.

DURIE though wasn't to be denied and just before half-time, he put Blackpool ahead, bundling the ball over the line after Thompson had dropped a Matthews centre.

He had the chance to complete his hat-trick early in the second-half but blasted his shot high and wide of the target, when it seemed easier to score!

Durie just wouldn't lie down and he was involved in Blackpool's third goal on the hour mark, chesting down a Jackie Mudie cross for PERRY to shoot home from the edge of the area.

North End responded with a long range shot from Forbes but there was little power behind it and Farm had no problems in saving.

The home side did eventually reduce the arrears when Tommy THOMPSON shook off the shackles of Gratrix and beat Farm with a shot from an acute angle.

Tom FINNEY had the beating of the Blackpool full-backs and it was from one of his forays down the right that North End rescued a point in the final minute of the game.

Brought down from behind by Wright, the North End winger picked himself up to place the spot-kick wide of George Farm's dive.

Tom Finney, who often tormented the local rivals, is here earning another of his England caps.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Fred Else had an unhappy day against the Seasiders.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 13th October 1956

Seasiders flattered by 4-0 margin.

Maintaining their 100% record at Bloomfield Road, to extend their sequence of home wins to six, Blackpool exacted ample revenge for Preston North End's 6-2 victory on this ground 12 months previously. But while they were the better finishers, they were undeniably flattered by a 4-0 margin.

Three of the goals were scored in the last quarter-of-an-hour, starting with a second gift by North End. Until this startling and shattering transformation occurred, the issue lay in the balance with Blackpool leading by one goal and struggling to hold it. The galling part for North End was that this goal had been a present too, from a defence that seemed impenetrable!

Fred Else erred in his judgment of a simple looking high clearance by FENTON early in the game and allowed the ball to drop over his head and into the net. Yet his goalkeeping subsequently attained the highest quality in anticipation and performance. North End had two good chances of equalising in the first-half, but both were thrown away with Campbell the major culprit. After a header by Thompson had beaten the goalkeeper and left the wingman in possession a few yards from an open goal, Campbell impulsively shot over when he should have been able to score with ease.

The Seasiders too could have extended their lead but Else produced at least four spectacular saves to deny the home forwards. The best of these was Bill Perry's 30 yard drive which took a deflection off Walton, forcing the North End keeper to twist in mid-air before touching the ball round the post.

Preston attacked incessantly for the bulk of the second-half but as in the first, Hatsell, time after time found himself having to wait for the ball to come to him with his back to goal.

Still, North End had improved and looked as if they could snatch a point but then DUNN put through his own goal, deflecting a Matthews' cross past Else.

This swung the game round in Blackpool's favour and the outcome was as brace of goals for that fine opportunist Jackie Mudie. Matthews created the fist, beating Walton and Evans before crossing to the near post where MUDIE glanced home a header. Minutes later, MUDIE netted his 14th goal in 12 matches when reacting first to a ball played in from the by-line by Perry.

In fact, the Scot could have completed a five minute hat-trick but for Fred Else's fine reactions in the closing stages of the game.

Final Score
Blackpool 4 Preston North End 0

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Fenton Dunn og Mudie 2)
PNE (-)

Attendance
36,006

Line-ups
Blackpool
G.Farm J.Armfield W.Wright J.Kelly R.Gratrix
E.Fenton S.Matthews E.Taylor J.Mudie
D.Durie B.Perry
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.Walton T.Docherty
J.Dunn R.Evans L.Campbell T.Thompson
D.Hatsell J.Baxter S.Taylor

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington writing in the Lancashire Evening Post said 'Matthews did something useful with the ball nearly everytime he got it. His guile, finesse and strategic moves were delightful as always. One Preston supporter who beforehand admitted being prejudiced towards Matthews, though for what reason I cannot imagine told me afterwards that nothing in the game had given him as much pleasure as the old international's adept and facile footwork'.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 2nd March 1957

Spot-on Finney wins the day.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 2 Preston North End 3

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Stevens Lofthouse)
PNE (Taylor Finney (2pens))

Attendance
37,090

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle J.Threlfall D.Hennin
B.Edwards E.Bell D.Holden D.Stevens
N.Lofthouse R.Parry R.Gubbins
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.Walton
T.Docherty J.Dunn F.O'Farrell L.Dagger
T.Thompson T.Finney J.Baxter S.Taylor

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End's excellence as a football side cannot be disputed: this occasion, however, was one when they were called upon to prove they have determination in equal measure. It is to the players' credit that they never flinched against strong decisive tackling and close marking'.

Preston North End produced a fine performance in winning at Burnden Park by 3-2. Although regarded as a fruitful ground for the Deepdale club, something more than tradition was obviously needed to overcome a team of Bolton's standing. The Wanderers had won 11 and drawn three of their 15 home league games before they played North End - only Wolverhampton Wanderers possessed a better home record. It was apparent from the outset that Bolton had resolved not to allow their opponents to play their normal type of game.

Bolton had the better of the early exchanges with Dennis Stevens heading narrowly wide from a Gubbins cross and Lofthouse beating Else with a similar effort, only for Walton to clear off the line. The Wanderers deservedly took the lead after 13 minutes when STEVENS crashed home a powerful drive from the edge of the area which beat Else all ends up.

North End responded with a fine move involving Finney, Baxter and Taylor, culminating in the latter bringing a fine save out of Hopkinson. However, the Bolton keeper was beaten just before half-time when TAYLOR fastened on to a fine through ball by Dagger and shot under Hopkinson's body as the keeper advanced off his line.

Bolton's fairly robust tactics brought their downfall at the start of the second-half when Finney was upended in the box by Threlfall. The referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty and FINNEY sent Hopkinson the wrong way. Just three minutes later and North End were awarded a second penalty when Roy Hartle brought down Tommy Thompson as he shaped to shoot. FINNEY again made no mistake, this time hitting the ball into the roof of the net.

North End dominated the opening minutes of the second-half and Hopkinson produced two superb saves in the space of five minutes, one of them robbing Dagger of what would have been only the second goal scored in 32 League matches by a Preston outside-right excluding a penalty by Finney.

Roared on by the home crowd, LOFTHOUSE seized on to an underhit back-pass by Joe Dunn and rounded Else to set up a frenetic finale, but despite the 'Lion of Vienna' winning most of the aerial duels, his colleagues failed to take the chances that came their way.

The win took North End to second place in the First Division, hot on the heels of leaders, Manchester United.

Sammy Taylor led the way with the opening goal at Burnden Park.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Frank O'Farrell.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 21st April 1958

North End avenge Cup defeat.

Preston North End had a half-share in a notable dual triumph when the League Champions and runners-up made the Cup Finalists smart with two resounding victories. Manchester United were at the receiving end of a 4-0 home defeat by Wolves and Bolton Wanderers lost at Burnden Park by an identical score. North End not only added to their many triumphs on this happy hunting ground for Deepdale teams, they gained sweet revenge for the 3-0 Cup eclipse by the Wanderers in the third round at Deepdale.

This success increased Preston's total of points to 57, a club record for the League Championship - one more would make the aggregate the highest by North End in either the First or Second Division.

Bolton had the better of the opening exchanges as their bustling, fast-moving style put North End on the defensive. But the opportunities, notably to Parry and Stevens were wasted by wild shooting. As the first-half wore on, Lofthouse headed against the bar and Fred Else produced two outstanding saves from Stevens and Birch but it was North End who took the lead against the run of play. Finney was put through by a great pass from Thompson, when he was pushed in the back by Banks. The referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty and FINNEY himself took the kick, hitting it forcibly past a static Eddie Hopkinson.

North End doubled their lead directly after the resumption when Mayers redeemed a poor first-half display by going through on a good run with Bolton appealing for offside. HATSELL, who was alert and enterprising throughout, took advantage of this opening to score.

The return of Finney, Docherty and Baxter made a big difference to the effectiveness of North End and on the hour-mark, Finney, who had slipped into the middle, prompted HATSELL with a perfect through pass and the North End leader beat Hopkinson with a shot which the goalkeeper could only help into the net. Bolton then had a couple of narrow escapes with both Thompson and Finney beating the Wanderers' keeper but their shots came back into Hopkinson's arms off the woodwork!

With time running out, the Wanderers again fell victim to their offside tactics with THOMPSON scoring his 33rd goal of the season.

The result gave Preston manager Cliff Britton the last laugh following a storm of criticism over his team selection for the FA Cup tie.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 0 Preston North End 4

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (-)
PNE (Hatsell 2 Thompson Finney (pen))

Attendance
24,067

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle T.Banks G.Stanley
J.Higgins B.Edwards B.Birch D.Stevens
N.Lofthouse R.Parry D.Holden
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.Walton T.Docherty
J.Dunn F.O'Farrell D.Mayers T.Thompson
D.Hatsell J.Baxter T.Finney

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Thursday 25th December 1958

Perry hat-trick floors North End comeback.

Final Score
Blackpool 4 Preston North End 2

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Perry 3 J.Kelly)
PNE (Thompson 2)

Attendance
24,411

Line-ups
Blackpool
G.Farm J.Armfield W.Wright P.Hauser
R.Gratrix H.Kelly S.Matthews J.Mudie
R.Charnley J.Kelly B.Perry
Preston North End
J.Barton W.Cunningham J.Walton G.Milne
J.Dunn F.O'Farrell D.Mayers T.Thompson
D.Hatsell J.Baxter T.Finney

What the papers said
John Taylor writing in the Lancashire Evening Post said 'For Preston this was a sorrowful start to the Christmas fixtures but into the record books go those men, who if they wish, may say they took part in this Bloomfield Road debacle!'

The Seasiders went ahead early in the game when Matthews weaved his magic on the right, leaving Walton and O'Farrell in his wake before crossing for PERRY to sweep the ball past John Barton.

Jackie Mudie shot from fully 30 yards and Barton was just able to scramble the ball round the post. Charnley headed just over from a Matthews' cross before the 'Wizard of Dribble' created another goal for the South African-born Perry. Receiving the ball out wide, Matthews toyed with the North End defence before picking out the head of Bill PERRY with an inch-perfect cross.

A long centre by Hugh Kelly found Charnley unmarked on the edge of the six-yard box but the Seasiders No.9 headed straight at Barton. The North End keeper was certainly the busier of the two custodians and minutes later, he produced an outstanding save to keep out a powerful shot by Mudie.

Blackpool eventually went 3-0 up when captain John KELLY worked a neat one-two with Matthews before beating Barton from the acutest of angles.

North End it appeared had a one-man attack - Hatsell; his passes to the wings were precise and well-timed and it was he who headed down Finney's cross for THOMPSON to shoot past Farm.

The goal seemed to inspire North End and they came close to reducing the arrears even further minutes later when Baxter found Hatsell in the clear. The centre-forward's carefully placed shot beat Farm but struck the inside of the post before rebounding into the Scottish international keeper's arms!

North End pulled another goal back midway through the second-half and it was that man THOMPSON again, latching on to Finney's through ball before taking the ball round Farm.

By now, Finney was limping, plagued by the troublesome groin that had been troubling him over the years and it became clear, though he stayed on the pitch, that there was only going to be one winner.

Blackpool went 4-2 up as Bill PERRY completed his hat-trick - the Seasiders' forward curled a free-kick round the North End wall and beyond Barton into the net. Try as they might, North End couldn't get back into the game, their best efforts being a 35 yard shot by Gordon Milne which forced Farm to tip over. At the other end, the Seasiders hit the woodwork with Charnley heading Matthews' centre against Barton's left-hand post.

A day later, Blackpool completed the double, winning 3-0 at Deepdale, a match which saw North End fans leaving the ground in droves long before the end.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Joe Walton.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Tommy Thompson's penalty earned North End a replay back at Deepdale.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 14th February 1959

Cup holders held at home by a determined North End.

Preston North End did more than was expected of them in forcing a thoroughly deserved draw with the FA Cup holders Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. It was earned and fought for, collectively and individually, though many supporters talked glibly about a massacre of the Preston lambs!

It certainly looked as if that was the case during the early stages of the game as both Lofthouse and Stevens forced Mike Lynne in the North End goal into making good saves. Ray Parry fired a free-kick inches wide of the target with Lynne unmoved as Bolton tried to force the pace. The Bolton inside-left was having a fine game and seemed to try his luck whenever he received the ball. Lofthouse too came close, heading inches over the bar.

Bolton took the lead after 32 minutes when PARRY's powerfully struck free-kick gave Lynne no chance whatsoever, but then took their foot of the accelerator, allowing North End back in the game.

Alston came close with a glancing header before CAMPBELL, who had replaced flu victim Dennis Hatsell outpaced Tommy Banks before shooting past the advancing Hopkinson.

North End could have taken the lead in their next attack but Mayers delayed his pass to Lambert who was left completely unmarked just yards from goal.

Early in the second-half, the Wanderers regained the lead when Stevens beat Milne to Holden's cross and laid the ball into the path of Brian BIRCH who shot past Lynne. Bolton's dangerman Nat Lofthouse was being closely marked by Mattinson and got little change out of the North End centre-half both in the air and on the ground. But Lofthouse was unlucky when his deflection off a centre by Holden from four yards out, hit the bar with Lynne beaten. Holden had been allowed to run along the by-line without being challenged and it looked as if he would shoot himself instead of crossing for the 'Lion of Vienna'.

North End drew level midway through the second-half when Tommy Thompson was upended in the area and the referee awarded a penalty. THOMPSON took the spot-kick himself and though Hopkinson got his fingers tot he ball, he couldn't prevent it crossing the line.

Bolton came back strongly but Lynne saved the day near the end, clutching a powerful drive by Ray Parry at full stretch and then tipping a Lofthouse header over the bar. As the full-time whistle went, North End were still unbeaten in the Cup at Burnden Park.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 2 Preston North End 2

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Birch Parry)
PNE (Campbell Thompson (pen))

Attendance
58,692

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle T.Banks D.Hennin
J.Higgins B.Edwards B.Birch D.Stevens
N.Lofthouse R.Parry D.Holden
Preston North End
M.Lynne W.Cunningham J.Walton G.Milne
H.Mattinson J.Smith L.Campbell
T.Thompson A.Alston J.Lambert D.Mayers

What the papers said
John Taylor of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End were not going to be pushed aside with disdain. There was a likeable spirit manifesting itself in the play. Although the accent lay in getting the ball, the manner in which it was chased and fought for was most praiseworthy'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Tuesday 15th September 1959

Finney goal settles Deepdale battle.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Burnley 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Finney)
Burnley (-)

Attendance
27,299

Line-ups
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.Walton G.Milne
J.Dunn F.O'Farrell T.Finney D.Sneddon
A.Alston J.Lambert S.Taylor
Burnley
A.Blacklaw J.Angus A.Elder J.Adamson
T.Cummings B.Miller J.Connelly B.White
R.Pointer J.Robson B.Pilkington

What the papers said
'Sportsman' of the Burnley Express wrote 'Preston defenders must be feeling sore this morning after their stern battle. The referee produced his notebook on a number of occasions, whilst Dunn, Cunningham and O'Farrell were all hurt in the same incident!

Several players took heavy tumbles in the lively opening play in which North End did the pressing and Burnley defended desperately. Alex Elder, who was making his Clarets' debut received a cheer from the large contingent of Burnley supporters when he dispossessed Tom Finney and Angus did well to nip in to prevent Alston from getting in a shot.

However, North End went ahead after just six minutes. Taylor took a corner which Angus let go. The ball seemed to rebound off a post and the wingman crossed it for FINNEY, who, although surrounded by a number of Burnley defenders, headed past the outstretched arms of Adam Blacklaw.

At the other end, Else went full length to save a fierce left-foot shot from Connelly, who was proving to be Burnley's best player. The winger who had recently won selection for the Football League, cut inside Cunningham and unleashed a terrific shot which Else held at the second attempt. Robson was unlucky when, with the Preston defence wide open, the ball spun back from him. Taylor had to fall back to help Walton deal with the dangerous Connelly but on one occasion, he beat both in a mazy run before crossing to Adamson, whose drive brought a full-length save from Fred Else.

Finney heads goalward.

Burnley were missing the talents of Northern Ireland international Jimmy McIlroy but passing on both sides was far more hopeful than accurate!

The referee booked Willie Cunningham for a foul on Pilkington and from the free-kick, Dunn, Cunningham and O'Farrell were all hurt in a wholesale collision but they resumed after attention.

Infringements became frequent towards the end of the game as North End strove to maintain their slender lead and Burnley tried to snatch an equaliser.

Pilkington also went into the referee's notebook after a foul on Alston as the North End centre-forward was about to centre from out on the left following a promising move by the home side in which Finney was the prime mover.

Both sides had scoring chances in the dying moments of the game as first Sneddon was put clear by Finney but in trying to round Blacklaw, ran the ball out of play. The Clarets should have drawn level when Jimmy Robson, thinking he was offside, delayed his shot, allowing Dunn to clear the danger.

Though the quality of football left a lot to be desired, but this was a hard fought battle in which both sets of players knew they'd been in a game!

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 3rd October 1959

North End triumph despite first minute lapse.

The Ewood Park clash of Blackburn Rovers and Preston North End lost something of its appeal to the home fans by the eleventh hour announcement that their inspirational leader Ronnie Clayton had failed a fitness test on his injured left knee. This meant, however, a notable first senior outing for 17-year-old Mike England, one of Blackburn's Youth Cup heroes of the previous season.

The game was less than a minute old when Rovers' captain for the day, Peter DOBING started and finished a move that game the home side the lead. Playing a neat one-two with Roy Vernon, he drilled his shot beyond the despairing dive of Fred Else. North End gradually settled down and drew level when Dave SNEDDON forced home the rebound after Harry Leyland had failed to hold Taylor's shot.

Rovers came back strongly and Vernon had the ball taken off his toes by Walton. Isherwood had a cross charged down and then a long speculative lob by Douglas was caught at the far post by Else. The England international sent in another effort minutes later which Else did well to take against the bar with Dobing challenging.

North End took the lead after 28 minutes when Sammy TAYLOR drove home from the edge of the area following good approach work by Mayers and Finney.

The bright sun was obviously bothering the Preston defenders and once caused Cunningham to 'lose' the ball in the air. Vernon then held off tackles from Jimmy Smith and Walton but delayed his shot too long and Else was able to dive at his feet and smother the ball.

Early in the second-half, Tom Finney got in a telling header which Leyland only just diverted round the post with his finger tips.

The 'Preston Plumber' was not to be denied and he scored North End's third goal on the hour mark. Taylor's deep cross from the left-wing was met by FINNEY coming in at the far post and he steered the ball past Harry Leyland.

North End were now completely on top, finding their men so accurately and consistently that Rovers' defence seemed to be chasing shadows. Blackburn did have a couple of chances midway through the half but in the best of these both Douglas and Isherwood failed to connect with MacLeod's cross.

Preston stretched their lead in the 77th minute when Finney cut inside McGrath and Woods, drew Leyland and put the ball into the path of FARRALL to tap into the empty net.

Sneddon then had a 'goal' disallowed for offside before Farrall shot tamely against Leyland's legs with only the keeper to beat. Then in the final minute, Mayers cracked a great drive against the crossbar.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 1 Preston North End 4

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Dobing)
PNE (Farrall Finney Sneddon Taylor)

Attendance
41,694

Line-ups
Blackburn Rovers
H.Leyland K.Taylor W.Smith M.England
M.Woods M.McGrath R.Isherwood
B.Douglas P.Dobing R.Vernon A.MacLeod
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.Walton G.Milne
J.Dunn J.Smith D.Mayers A.Farrall
T.Finney D.Sneddon S.Taylor

What the papers said
William Westall of the Lancashire Evening Telegraph wrote 'North End's Joe Dunn deserved credit for the way he held the mettlesome Dobing, who certainly did not shape like a disgruntled player. England, replacement for the badly missed Clayton, confirmed his promise but the captain's inspiration was lacking'.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Fred Else.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Joe Dunn.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 21st November 1959

Finney inspires sixth consecutive victory.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Bolton Wanderers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Mayers)
Bolton W (-)

Attendance
28,723

Line-ups
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.Walton G.Milne
J.Dunn J.Smith D.Mayers T.Thompson
T.Finney D.Sneddon S.Taylor
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
G.Stanley J.Higgins M.Edwards B.Birch
F.Hill D.Stevens R.Parry D.Holden

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'During Preston's long superiority in the second-half, it was Finney who undermined the stability of Bolton's defence. There were signs of panic every time he got the ball'.

Another wholehearted team effort pulled Preston North End through one of their toughest matches of the season and in doing so, ensured a sixth consecutive victory. It was North End's 10th in their last 12 matches - ironically, the two other defeats resulted in 5-1 losses!

Though it wasn't one of their most impressive displays, North End just about earned this win against a Bolton side whose tackling was ruthless.

Preston supporters took exception to the vigorous methods of Hartle and Higgins and Finney was floored numerous times in his clashes with the powerful Wanderers' centre-half. Massive in build and cumbersome in the tackle, Higgins found it difficult to dispossess Finney who though he often came off worst in the challenges, never complained.

Time after time in the opening quarter-of-an-hour, North End made raids full of promise with Mayers beating Farrimond for pace and crossing for Sneddon to head narrowly wide. Finney though was in fine form and in one mesmerising dribble, he laid the ball back for Tommy Thompson to test Hopkinson from the edge of the box. The Bolton keeper had to be alert minutes later, when Sneddon's shot took a deflection off Stanley. Twisting in mid-air, the Wanderers No.1 produced a magnificent save. Bolton hadn't been in the game yet on 35 minutes, they could have taken the lead. Doug Holden worked his way along the by-line before pulling the ball back to Stevens. The Wanderers' centre-forward snatched at his shot which went harmlessly wide of Else's left-hand upright.

Freddie Hill beat three Preston defenders before curling his shot inches wide of the target and as the first-half drew to a close, Finney, despite the close attentions of Malcolm Edwards, got in a shot which Hopkinson turned round the post.

Early in the second-half, Hill, who was having a fine game for the Wanderers, cut inside Smith before unleashing a shot that Else held at the second attempt.

North End then got to grips with the game and Finney engineered two chances which Thompson and Sneddon respectively failed to make the most of. Despite sustained North End pressure, the game appeared to be heading for a goalless draw when Finney again created an opening which was finally taken advantage of.

Sneddon's misdirected pass rebounded to Finney off a defender but he showed quick thinking in setting up Taylor, whose cross found the unmarked MAYERS. The winger coolly drew Hopkinson before sliding the ball under the keeper's body for the only goal of the game.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tuesday 1st March 1960

Dagger shines in eight-goal thriller.

This was a game brimming over with excitement and enthusiasm for crowd and players alike. North End found their touch again in impressive fashion against Blackburn Rovers to gain a League victory after waiting for one since the previous November!

The game opened with Leyland making a fine save from Tommy Thompson and then producing an even better one by tipping over a deflected shot by Dagger. Rovers' early escapes were followed by one for North End as Douglas flicked at a smart return pass from the right-wing and missed the target by inches.

North End fed Dagger at every opportunity as if realising that his direct methods could bring the desired results. He stole the show, putting his side ahead after seven minutes. Finney put Thompson through and though the North End forward mishit his shot, it went to DAGGER who beat his marker and fired past Leyland. Finney almost added a second moments later but his shot glanced off Whelan and into Leyland's hands. The Blackburn keeper then made a good save after Taylor had broken through but couldn't prevent THOMPSON from heading home Dagger's pin-point cross after 13 minutes.

At the other end, Else saved superbly from Dougan after the Irish international had been played through by Douglas but he was beaten on 25 minutes when Clayton's free-kick was deflected to the unmarked MacLEOD who had time to pick his spot. Rovers nearly scored again when McGrath's long range shot hit Dougan and landed on the roof of the net.

In the closing stages of the first-half, North End went 3-1 up when following good work by Sneddon and Dagger, the latter crossed to the far post for SMITH to head in off the underside of the bar.

North End went further ahead in the 51st minute when Thompson let Finney's cross run on to SNEDDON who scored with a short sharp hook shot.

However, Rovers were far from a spent force. Bimpson shot narrowly wide and MacLeod ad a powerful drive well held by Else. Douglas was then denied a goal by a fine reaction save by the North End keeper and Dougan saw his header turned over the top by the ever-alert Else. McGrath then saw his long range shot pass inches outside Else's right-hand post before DOUGLAS reduced the arrears after 81 minutes - the England international converting a penalty after he had been brought down by Richardson.

A minute later, Dagger had a goal disallowed for offside. The last five minutes were crammed with incident as THOMPSON scored a fifth from Dagger's cross and then a minute from time, DOUGLAS netted a face-saving third for Blackburn.

Final Score
Preston North End 5 Blackburn Rovers 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Thompson 2 Sneddon Smith Dagger)
Blackburn R (MacLeod Douglas 2 (1pen))

Attendance
26,781

Line-ups
Preston North End
F.Else K.Heyes J.Walton G.Milne
G.Richardson J.Smith L.Dagger
T.Thompson T.Finney D.Sneddon S.Taylor
Blackburn Rovers
H.Leyland J.Bray D.Whelan R.Clayton
M.Woods M.McGrath L.Bimpson P.Dobing
D.Dougan B.Douglas A.MacLeod

What the papers said
The Lancashire Evening Posts Walter Pilkington wrote 'Beating the strong and mettlesome Rovers 5-3 on a rainy night, after leading 4-1, North End scored as many goals as in their previous five league matches. Approaching this task with evident determination as if their pride had been hurt by merited criticism of a spiritless poor performance at Everton three days earlier, North End adopted a much more progressive and direct fashion than recently and found it considerably more effective'.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Tommy Thompson featured in some of the great derby games af the 50's and 60's.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

No. 7 6722 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 1960

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RUGBY MEN PLUNGE FOR IT
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LAST FOOTBALL "POST"

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 15th October 1960

Rovers rattled by gift goals mix up.

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Woods 2 og's)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
24,229

Line-ups
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.O'Neill J.Fullam
T.Singleton J.Wylie A.Alston T.Thompson
P.Thompson D.Sneddon J.Lambert
Blackburn Rovers
R.Jones J.Bray K.Taylor R.Clayton
M.Woods K.Newton B.Douglas P.Dobing
D.Dougan C.Crowe P.Daly

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'At least it was a change to see North End doing some shooting. They made as many attempts in the opening quarter-of-an-hour as in the whole of the Everton match. They were also playing more upfield and consequently threatening danger oftener'.

There was a time when people came to Deepdale from every direction and from Blackburn and neighbouring towns as well for the age-old clash of North End and Rovers. However, there were few signs of this long-honoured rivalry - no long queues and few glimpses of traditional enthusiasm and partisanship!

North End had the better of the opening exchanges with Peter Thompson shooting just wide and his namesake Tommy heading an Alex Alston centre into the arms of Blackburn keeper Jones. In what was Blackburn's first attack of the game, the North End goal had an amazing escape. Dougan beat Singleton in the air and headed the ball on for Dobing to hit a first time shot against the foot of the post, the ball bouncing up straight into Else's hands.

It was North End who were showing the superior attacking ideas and there was another clear-cut chance from an Alston cross which Lambert wasted by shooting wide.

A mix-up in the Blackburn defence gave North End the lead after 20 minutes. Jones came out too far for a centre from Alston and Matt WOODS probably under the impression that the goalkeeper had stayed on his line, headed backwards for an own goal!

Rovers almost equalised minutes later when Dougan tried to slip the ball under Else's body as the North End keeper came out. But Else anticipated beautifully and grabbed the ball one-handed as he lay on the ground.

North End had the ball in the net again through Alston from Peter Thompson's pass but he had strayed offside.

At the other end, Chris Crowe made the crossbar shake when he ran on to Dobing's squared pass and from 25 yards hammered in a terrific drive. Dobing should have equalised from Dougan's header into the goalmouth but he hooked the ball wide under challenge by O'Neill and Singleton. The visitors should have drawn level in their first attack after the restart. Douglas took a high pass from Clayton, beat O'Neill and crossed tot he far post where Dobing tamely side-footed into the hands of Fred Else. Dobing had another chance shortly afterwards but sliced his shot wide after being set up by Dougan.

North End had a penalty claim rejected when Alston was brought down by Taylor as he cut in from the wing. There was nearly another own goal from Woods with the Rovers' defence at panic stations after Jones had collided with Sneddon. With time to clear the ball upfield, Woods instead headed back towards the empty goal but luckily for him the ball spun wide.

Then for a second time in the match, tragedy for Matt Woods with another own goal. Alston beat Taylor's tackle and put the ball across the by-line. Jones knocked it down but WOODS trying to complete the clearance only succeeded in turning the ball into the net.

In the dying moments, Woods came upfield in a desperate bid to retrieve his errors but his header from Crowe's cross was a foot too high.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 18th February 1961

No luck for Seasiders as North End win again.

With both clubs desperate for points, this derby involving North End and Blackpool was, from the football standpoint, a sham!

The game is seldom, if ever, played to anything approaching classical lines in a League match when one goal may be vital, as it was in this travesty of football at Bloomfield Road.

The first-half was atrocious as both sides showed a lack of ideas. The home side definitely missed Stanley Matthews, left out because the Seasiders did not wish to change a winning team and partly through their desire in the circumstances to have 90 minutes endeavour! Even so, the Blackpool supporters must have asked themselves why a player of his craft was having an afternoon off when the play was so barren of constructive thought. Blackpool's only chance in the first-half fell to Matthews' replacement, former North Ender Les Campbell, whose tricky footwork took him into the box but his shot flew narrowly wide.

Willie Cunningham.

In a less boring second-half, Preston created far more scoring opportunities than Blackpool. Alston, Thompson and Sneddon missed three from which it seemed easier to score than miss the target!

North End took the lead on 64 minutes when MAYERS was quick to profit from a slip when Garrett misjudged a high centre from Thompson and he headed home from close range.

Blackpool followers bemoaned their team's luck when Ray Parry hit the crossbar with a fiercely struck drive although Else appeared to have it covered. They also groaned when the former Bolton player failed to take advantage of a chance close in. Instead of placing the ball wide of the North End keeper, he hit it straight at Fred Else.

The home crowd felt still more aggrieved when Blackpool claimed that Bruce Crawford had been pulled down in a congested goalmouth when he was about to shoot. The referee consulted the linesman but decided against awarding the Seasiders a penalty.

Parry and Campbell then went close with long range shots before Else made his best save of the day in turning a Ray Charnley header onto the bar and away to safety. North End too had their chances towards the end but Alston delayed his shot far too long and West, who was otherwise not tested, saved well from Sneddon.

This result meant that North End were two precious points better off with at least as good a chance now, as Blackpool of eventually fighting free from the relegation zone.

Final Score
Blackpool 0 Preston North End 1

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (-)
PNE (Mayers)

Attendance
20,541

Line-ups
Blackpool
G.West J.Armfield T.Garrett P.Hauser
R.Gratrix D.Durie L.Campbell B.Peterson
R.Charnley B.Crawford R.Parry
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.O'Neill J.Wylie
T.Singleton F.O'Farrell D.Mayers J.Fullam
A.Alston D.Sneddon P.Thompson

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington wrote in the Lancashire Evening Post 'The evident resolve of both teams, probably drummed into them beforehand, was "they shall not pass". That was the wearisome trend of a slow-motion, aimless negative exhibition of futile striving cut to pieces in the main by quick, decisive and determined defenders'.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 29th April 1961

Second Division bound North End share the spoils.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 1 Preston North End 1

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Stevens)
PNE (Wilson)

Attendance
12,637

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer B.Edwards R.Wilkinson D.Holden
B.Birch D.Stevens F.Hill B.Pilkington
Preston North End
F.Else W.Cunningham J.O'Neill J.Wylie
T.Singleton J.Smith J.Humes T.Thompson
A.Alston P.Thompson D.Wilson

Dave Wilson.

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End improved - except in finishing. The crowd were fed up and some of them expressed their feelings with a slow handclap.

Without a win in their last six games, already relegated Preston North End visited Bolton Wanderers, who themselves had just avoided the dreaded drop, on the final day of the season.

North End introduced a more youthful flavour into a re-shuffled forward line by giving a second chance to both Dave Wilson and Jimmy Humes, whilst Tommy Thompson and Jimmy Smith were back after lengthy absences.

Preston's goal had a remarkable fourth minute escape when Dougie Holden, coming in quickly at the far post, failed to control Pilkington's cross, allowing Else to drop on the ball. Brian Birch had a good first-time shot turned round the post by the Preston keeper before Hill set up Stevens, who shot narrowly wide. It was all Bolton and they deservedly took the lead after 24 minutes when O'Neill fouled Holden. The Wanderers winger took the free-kick himself, finding Pilkington, whose cross-cum-shot was fumbled by Fred Else, allowing STEVENS a simple tap-in.

Birch had to leave the field after hurting his face in a collision with John O'Neill but even with ten men, the Wanderers continued to dominate proceedings. In fact, North End's first shot on goal didn't arrive until the 32nd minute when Peter Thompson tested Hopkinson from 25 yards out. North End's only other shot of note in a disappointing first-half for the visitors came from a Tommy Thompson free-kick which the Wanderers' keeper gathered low at the foot of the post.

The Wanderers started the second-half with ten men, Birch having gone to hospital with a suspected fractured cheek bone.

North End almost made their one-man advantage tell in the 48th minute when Hartle headed Alston's header off the line. The North End No.9 came close again on 57 minutes when after beating Edwards to a long through ball from Wylie, he lobbed Hopkinson, only to see Hartle hurry back to make his second goal-line clearance!

Bolton came back and Pilkington released a powerful shot from fully 30 yards out which almost caught Else by surprise - the North End keeper turning the ball behind for a corner.

Dave Wilson had a shot on the turn saved by Hopkinson before good work by Alston and Tommy Thompson ended with Humes shooting tamely into the Bolton keeper's hands. With Bolton beginning to tire, Tommy Thompson headed inches over the bar with the Wanderers defence at sixes and sevens.

With just one minute to play, North End got the goal their second-half display warranted. Dave WILSON's shot from an acute angle crept between Hopkinson and the near post. It was to be North End's last top flight goal - although few realised it at the time.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 25th January 1964

Deakin late-show takes tie to replay.

After many weeks of success, Preston North End travelled to Burnden Park for the eagerly awaited FA Cup fourth round tie. The Wanderers were going through difficult times in Division One, having been severely handicapped by injuries in an uphill fight to maintain their record of uninterrupted membership of the top flight since before the Second World War whilst North End were striving to get back to that company!

The visitors had the late disappointment of having to play without inside-right Alec Ashworth who had a strained thigh, whilst Bolton were without captain Roy Hartle, who had to sacrifice his place because of an eye injury when skylarking at home with his young son.

Under the FA Cup rule which decreed that both sides should change colours when there was a clash, Bolton turned out in red shirts and North End in blue.

Dougie Holden in recognition of his long association with the Wanderers led North End on the field and was acting captain in tossing for the choice of ends.

As early as the fourth minute, North End showed their intentions when a rising drive from Alan Spavin forced Hopkinson into making a save. During the early stages, the Wanderers seemed strangely subdued and were unduly harassed by Preston's close marking. North End's Nobby Lawton saw his shot squirm out of Hopkinson's grasp and roll backwards. He momentarily appealed, thinking mistakenly that it had crossed the line.

Bolton eventually found their form and Gordon Taylor forced Alan Kelly into turning his shot over the bar but it was North End who came closest to taking the lead on 18 minutes when Alex Dawson's shot struck the post before being cleared by Hatton.

Wyn Davies fired in a shot from well outside the area, Kelly turning it behind for a corner.

As the half wound to a close, it was North End who were on top and playing with confidence and they took the lead through Alex DAWSON who headed home Godfrey's pin-point cross.

Early in the second-half, the burly Scottish striker netted his and North End's second goal. Cutting in from the left, Holden's cross was met by DAWSON who forced the ball over the line from close range. Dave Wilson and Doug Holden were providing Preston's No.9 with impeccable service and it was only an outstanding display of goalkeeping by Eddie Hopkinson that prevented the North End striker from netting a hat-trick.

Yet despite their superiority, North End conceded two goals in the space of five minutes towards the end of the game as Peter DEAKIN fastened on to a fine through ball by Lennard to reduce the arrears. DEAKIN then headed home Lee's cross at the near post to leave the tie all-square and a replay in two day's time.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 2 Preston North End 2

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Deakin 2)
PNE (Dawson 2)

Attendance
39,234

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson D.Hatton S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer B.Edwards D.Lennard F.Lee
F.Hill W.Davies P.Deakin G.Taylor
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross I.Davidson N.Lawton
T.Singleton H.Kendall D.Wilson B.Godfrey
A.Dawson A.Spavin D.Holden

Alex Dawson.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Monday 27th January 1964

Scrambled goal gives North End FA Cup replay win.

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Bolton Wanderers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Dawson Lawton)
Bolton W (Edwards)

Attendance
38,290

Line-ups
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross I.Davidson N.Lawton
T.Singleton H.Kendall D.Wilson B.Godfrey
A.Dawson A.Spavin D.Holden
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson D.Hatton S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer B.Edwards D.Lennard F.Lee F.Hill
W.Davies P.Deakin G.Taylor

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'It was a climax to many weeks of success for Preston and while at Deepdale beforehand I had a quiet smile of satisfaction on seeing a notice outside the pavilion office "All tickets sold", this was indeed harking back to palmier days'.

Following their first meeting with First Division Bolton Wanderers two days earlier, North End again proved themselves a more accomplished side than their loftier rivals. During the early exchanges, Bolton's England international goalkeeper Eddie Hopkinson did well to keep out long range shots from Doug Holden and Dave Wilson, whilst at the other end, Alan Kelly saved a powerfully struck 25 yard free-kick from Francis Lee. Freddie Hill almost caught the North End keeper unawares when he too tried his luck from distance whilst Wyn Davies was guilt of a glaring miss shortly after North End had taken the lead.

Preston's opening goal came when Alex DAWSON managed to break free from the outstanding Bryan Edwards, retained his balance and fired hard and low past Hopkinson to put the Whites 1-0 up. It was an outstanding goal, comparable with his two headed goals in the first meeting at Burnden Park.

Nobby Lawton.

Within a matter of minutes, the Wanderers thought they had drawn level but Hill's header from a Francis Lee cross was brilliantly turned round the post by Kelly. The North End keeper was kept busy for the remainder of the first-half, saving well from both Lennard and Deakin before a Wyn Davies header whistled wide. The Whites started well in the second-half and had obviously adopted a policy of shoot on sight but efforts from Dawson, Lawton, Spavin and Wilson all failed to trouble Eddie Hopkinson. North End were left to rue these missed chances when on 55 minutes, the Wanderers drew level.

Gordon Taylor's left-wing corner found the unmarked Bryan EDWARDS and he beat Kelly at the near post with a perfectly judged header.

The visitors then began to get on top and came close to taking the lead on numerous occasions. The best chance without doubt fell to Wyn Davies but the Welsh international striker was brilliantly tackled by Tony Singleton just a few yards from goal.

North End's winner came in the 75th minute but what a scrambled goal it was. Doug Holden, the former Bolton winger cut inside Dave Hatton and crossed for Godfrey to touch it on to Wilson. The Preston winger's cross caused a melee to develop in which Lawton, Hatton and Hopkinson were involved. It ended with Nobby LAWTON challenged simultaneously by Hatton and the Bolton keeper, forcing the ball over the line from two yards out.

North End were forced to cling on to their lead as Bolton pressed hard in the closing stages for an equaliser.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 12th September 1964

Punchless North End hit by Wanderers Whirlwind.

Bolton Wanderers sent their supporters home in delighted mood with their 5-1 win over Preston, as much perhaps because of a whirlwind finale as anything.

Two of their four second-half goals came in the last minute and there were four goals including Brian Godfrey's in the final quarter-of-an-hour. It certainly never looked likely to be a score of this kind and on the run of the game, North End had no business losing by such a margin. Believe it or not, they spent more time on the attack than Bolton but North End's trouble was lack of bite at shooting range and rather too much dependence on Alex Dawson!

North End began the brightest with Wilson tormenting Wanderers' left-back Syd Farrimond every time he received the ball. One of his pin-point crosses found the head of Alex Dawson but his effort was off target. Nobby Lawton's powerful drive from just outside the penalty area hit Warwick Rimmer in the face and he only recovered after extensive treatment. Another Lawton effort hit the post with Hopkinson well beaten but just before half-time, Bolton took the lead when HILL left Jim Smith flat-footed before rifling his shot wide of Kelly.

Five minutes into the second-half, the Wanderers went 2-0 up when Francis LEE met Gordon Taylor's cross to power a header past Alan Kelly.

Though Bolton lacked North End's smoothness in approach, when it came to penalty area efficiency and the main object of the exercise, which is to put the ball in the net, there was only one team in it. The Wanderers scored a third goal on 76 minutes when Wyn DAVIES beat Tony Singleton to a Taylor cross and side-footed the ball past Kelly. The Welsh international almost scored again a minute later but his looping header landed on top of the bar.

Preston's late consolation goal when the game was already lost, came in the 85th minute when a shot by Alex Dawson rebounded off Bolton keeper Eddie Hopkinson straight to Brian GODFREY who scored from close range.

With time running out, Lee, who had switched to the left, found the head of Wyn DAVIES and from the edge of the area, the ball whistled into the net before Kelly had time to move. A minute later, Lee again worked his way to the by-line before crossing hard and low into a crowded six-yard box where Freddie HILL slammed the ball home.

Brian Godfrey.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 5 Preston North End 1

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Lee Hill 2 Davies 2)
PNE (Godfrey)

Attendance
18,136

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer B.Edwards D.Hatton F.Lee
F.Hill W.Davies B.Bromley G.Taylor
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross J.Donnelly N.Lawton
T.Singleton J.Smth D.Wilson B.Godfrey
A.Dawson A.Spavin D.Holden

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Shortcomings in North End's attack and defence were exposed by Bolton's tenacity, pace, persistence and a greater penetrativeness. The rivals had about an equal number of scoring chances in a wholly entertaining game which revealed Preston as pretty but ineffective and the Wanderers as brisk, enterprising, forthright in defence and much more direct in attack'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Saturday 30th January 1965

Late goal decides Deepdale farce.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Bolton Wanderers 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Dawson)
Bolton W (Lee (pen) Davies)

Attendance
33,533

Line-ups
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross J.Smith I.Davidson
T.Singleton K.Cranston D.Wilson B.Godfrey
A.Dawson H.Kendall D.Holden
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer B.Edwards D.Hatton F.Lee F.Hill
W.Davies B.Bromley G.Taylor

What the papers said

Walter Pilkington of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Certainly on actual scoring chances, the Wanderers were lucky to pull through. They were slower and more antagonistic than Preston, perhaps taking more risks but as in the League match rehearsal a fortnight earlier, North End created more and better openings and tested Hopkinson's considerable resource with direct attempts to score oftener than Kelly was called upon by Bolton's efforts'.

Bolton Wanderers avenged their FA Cup downfall at Deepdale in the corresponding round of last season by knocking out the beaten finalists by two lapses to one on a pitch so treacherous and unpredictable that the football played on it was farcical and the outcome a gamble!

In a tediously ragged, goalless first-half, the only action of note came on the half-hour mark when Alex Dawson lost his marker and sent in a header which Hopkinson turned over the bar.

Early in the second-half, the Bolton keeper achieved another masterly save in stopping a point-blank volley from Howard Kendall. On 52 minutes, Kendall hooked the ball into the danger zone and Edwards, positioned on the goal-line headed out from Godfrey. The ball went to Dawson who aimed for the corner with his prompt header instead of the gaping goal and Syd Farrimond cleared off the line!

Bolton took the lead seven minutes later when Wyn Davies nipped on to a pass intended for Davidson. After beating Tony Singleton, he attempted to go round Kelly but was pulled down by the North End keeper. Francis LEE's thunderbolt of a penalty gave Kelly no chance.

Two minutes later, North End were level when Alex DAWSON, North End's likeliest-looking and most aggravating challenger intercepted a header by Edwards to his nonplused goalkeeper and headed home the equaliser.

With the footholds precarious and the ball liable to bounce at all sorts of unexpected angles and heights, the game was becoming a lottery.

Another long ball out of defence by Hartle bounced over Singleton's head but Bromley, who could have taken the ball closer to goal, shot first-time into the side-netting. Davies then headed a deep cross from Farrimond onto the roof of the net with Kelly an onlooker and then Lee's powerful drive from well outside the area, scraped the outside of Kelly's right-hand post.

There were just four minutes left when the Wanderers took the lead. In normal conditions, North End wing-half Ian Davidson would have had no problem in dealing with Francis Lee's cross but in trying to stop it, he miskicked it to Wyn DAVIES who had the simple task of side-footing the ball into the net from close range.

In the minutes that remained, Howard Kendall was the victim of a rather rash challenge by Francis Lee, resulting in the North End man ending the game as a semi-conscious passenger with blood streaming from his face.

Alan Kelly Snr.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 12th February 1966

North End earn replay in rugged struggle.

Preston North End recovered spiritedly from the shock of an early goal and finished with honours and bruises about even in drawing 1-1 away from home.

Considering that the Wanderers had so convincingly knocked out West Bromwich Albion in the previous round, also at Burnden Park, it was a good performance.

The subsequent grumbles were more about the refereeing than the result, which was a fair reflection of what was certainly a rugged struggle by two determined sides, but not a true picture of chances and escapes.

North End started brightly and had two early chances, both of which fell to Brian Godfrey. Played in by Hannigan, he went round Farrimond but then shot straight at Hopkinson. Moments later he was on the end of a fine cross by Frank Lee but his header lacked power and the Wanderers' keeper had little trouble in saving.

Bolton then took the lead when following a good move by Rimmer and Bromley, Wyn DAVIES with a characteristic side-flick beat Barton at the near post. Preston defenders claimed that the Welsh international was offside but the referee adjudged the goal a fair one.

Minutes later, Alex Dawson thudded a header against the crossbar with Hopkinson beaten. But he wasn't to be denied for long and following good work on the left by Spavin and Lee, DAWSON headed home the winger's cross to level the scores.

Just before half-time, Preston's Lee was sent flying after being tripped by Hartle just inside the area but the referee deemed the foul to have been just outside the box. The latter stages of the first-half had seen both sides resort to hacking, pushing and obstruction as the referee appeared to lose control.

Early in the second-half which was not far removed from a brawl, Bolton had two claims for a penalty turned down. Kendall was involved in both incidents and the home side can consider themselves unlucky not to have been awarded at least one spot-kick.

There were many fouls in the second period, due more to wild kicking and late clumsy tackles than viciousness.

Bolton had the chance to snatch victory at the death as first Davies' surprise shot was brilliantly saved by John Barton and then Francis Lee shot across an open goal. North End followers were delighted to see Alex Dawson's goal drought come to an end - his vintage header will be remembered when the events of this tough cup-tie are forgotten!

Howard Kendall, involved in a penalty claim.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 1 Preston North End 1

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Davies)
PNE (Dawson)

Attendance
35,632

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer J.Napier D.Hatton F.Lee
B.Bromley W.Davies F.Hill G.Taylor
Preston North End
J.Barton G.Ross J.Smith N.Lawton
T.Singleton H.Kendall E.Hannigan
B.Godfrey A.Dawson A.Spavin F.Lee

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End's manager scoffs at psychology and tradition in saying that all grounds are the same and it's the way teams go about the job that counts. He is practical, realistic and probably right.'

PRESTON NORTH END v BOLTON WANDERERS

Monday 14th February 1966

Poetic justice as Wanderers pay the penalty!

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Bolton Wanderers 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Godfrey (2 pens) Dawson)
Bolton W (Lee Davies)

Attendance
31,579

Line-ups
Preston North End
J.Barton G.Ross J.Smith N.Lawton
T.Singleton H.Kendall E.Hannigan
B.Godfrey A.Dawson A.Spavin D.Wilson
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer J.Napier D.Hatton F.Lee
B.Bromley W.Davies F.Hill G.Taylor

Alan Spavin, needed treatment before returnng for the second half.

A home draw against First Division Tottenham Hotspur awaited the winners of this FA Cup fourth round replay.

As both sides sought to gain the upper hand, the early exchanges were fairly physical with a number of free-kicks being awarded to both North End and the Wanderers. Yet neither keeper had been called into action until after 12 minutes, the visitors' England international No.1 was picking the ball out of the net. Brian Godfrey's inch-perfect pass found Ernie Hannigan and he outpaced Farrimond before crossing for Alex DAWSON to out jump Napier and head past Hopkinson.

Alex Dawson was having an outstanding game, a constant thorn in the Wanderers' defence. He almost netted his and North End's second after 27 minutes but his well-hit shot from the edge of the area was well saved by the Bolton keeper.

The visitors gradually got themselves back into the game and Francis Lee should have levelled the scores on 36 minutes but shot straight at Barton. The Wanderers winger made amends two minutes later when Gordon Taylor's corner-kick was headed across the face of goal by Hatton and LEE completely unmarked in front of goal made it 1-1. Wanderers' tough tackling full-back Roy Hartle was cautioned for a challenge on Alan Spavin who had to leave the field for treatment.

Though he returned for the second-half, it was the Wanderers who took the two minutes after the restart. Wyn DAVIES' cross-shot was parried by John Barton but it fell kindly for the big Welsh international to shoot into an open goal.

Three minutes later, Davies handled a Jimmy Smith free-kick which the Wanderers' keeper Eddie Hopkinson had covered and from the resultant spot-kick, Brian GODFREY drove the ball into the top right-hand corner beyond Hopkinson's reach.

On 68 minutes, North End were awarded a second penalty when Ernie Hannigan avoided Farrimond's lunging tackle but was then caught by Hartle as he shaped to shoot. GODFREY drove another hard rising shot into the roof of the net, leaving the Bolton keeper well beaten, as he had been by the inside-forward's first spot-kick.

Bolton tried hard to get back on level terms during the closing stages of the match but found John Barton equal to anything their forwards had to offer.

The outcome was as much poetic justice for North End as poetic retribution for the Wanderers who had courted all sorts of risks in man or ball defensive tactics at the cost of numerous free-kicks.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Wednesday 16th March 1966

Greenhalgh hat-trick aids second-half fightback.

North End again proved the Wanderers' bogey team with a 3-1 victory at Burnden Park after trailing a goal down at half-time. Their second-half recovery was highlighted by a hat-trick from reserve centre-forward Brian Greenhalgh.

North End created two early chances when a clever break through the middle by Ernie Hannigan saw Eddie Hopkinson leap to his left to catch the Preston wingers' goalbound shot. Then Brian Godfrey, unmarked on the edge of the Bolton box unleashed a rising drive only inches too high.

Then the Wanderers got their game in order and controlled the rest of the first-half.

Freddie Hill was outstanding, hitting an upright with a first-time shot and putting Bromley clear on goal only for the young midfielder to shoot straight at Kelly. Bolton took the lead after 29 minutes when a Dennis Butler free-kick was headed home by Wyn DAVIES. Free-kicks followed one another with great regularity, subsequently leading to the booking of Tony Singleton for a foul on the Bolton No.9. A minute before half-time, the Wanderers had claims for a penalty waved away after Bromley had been upended in the area.

However, after half-time, the Wanderers hardly got a look in and when Farrimond stood back instead of tackling Ernie Hannigan, the winger got in a cross which GREENHALGH at the far post headed gracefully past Hopkinson.

This seemed to stir the Wanderers and they enjoyed a ten-minute spell of heavy pressure in which Francis Lee had a 'goal' disallowed after Hill and Davies had created the opening with headers and Hill and Bromley had shots well dealt with by Kelly.

Then Butler missed from close range after he hesitated too long with what should have been a scoring shot. After that wonderful chance had gone begging, the Wanderers found themselves a goal down. Hannigan and Lawton made the opening and GREENHALGH floated the ball over Hopkinson's head and into the net off the far post.

Two minutes later, GREENHALGH stunned the home crowd by adding another. Napier delayed his back-pass to the Bolton keeper, lost possession to the young reserve striker and watched dismayed as he slid the ball into the corner of the net.

Both Godfrey and Lee missed late chances but the issue was settled and so after looking well beaten, North End stole both points against a thoroughly disillusioned Bolton side.

It was a fairy-tale evening for the 19-year-old Brian Greenhalgh, one he remembered, long after he retired.

Tony Singleton.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 1 Preston North End 3

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Davies)
PNE (Greenhalgh 3)

Attendance
13,961

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson R.Hartle S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer J.Napier D.Lennard F.Lee
B.Bromley W.Davies F.Hill D.Butler
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross J.Smith N.Lawton T.Singleton
H.Kendall E.Hannigan B.Godfrey
B.Greenhalgh A.Spavin F.Lee sub J.Donnelly

What the papers said
Michael Dryland of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'North End's success was well merited against dogged and unceremonious opponents. It again demonstrated the team's ability to fight back against odds apparently heavily stacked against them'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 26th September 1966

North End rally turns the tables.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Spavin Dawson Lee)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
24,173

Line-ups
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross J.Smith A.Spavin T.Singleton
K.Cranston D.Wilson E.Hannigan A.Dawson
B.Godfrey F.Lee sub B.Greenhalgh
Blackburn Rovers
J.Barton W.Wilson W.Joyce R.Clayton D.Holt
B.Hole J.Connelly G.Jones A.Gilliver
B.Douglas M.Ferguson

What the papers said
Alf Thornton writing in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph said 'It was another dreadfully disappointing show by the Rovers who promised flashily for half-an-hour but fell to pieces when the crunch came, totally incapable of any show of fighting spirit. Three successive defeats have brought the harsh facts of Second Division life to the Rovers'.

Blackburn Rovers failed to improve upon their dismal post-war record at Deepdale after giving the impression that they would stroll away with the points. Thrown into confusion by a sustained and spirited rally, they suffered their third defeat in 10 days and had reason to be thankful it wasn't a rout!

It was Blackburn's seventh reverse in eight matches at Deepdale since 1946, the exception being a 2-1 win at a First Division match in February 1959 when North End, without Finney, were in a bad patch.

It might have been different had the Rovers got the first goal - and they should have. Bryan Douglas was denied one early in the game by a great save by Alan Kelly who fingertipped the ball over. Douglas also hit the face of the bar with an angled shot. George Jones missed badly early in the second-half. Jim Smith slipped and let him in from Mike Ferguson's pass. With Connelly on his right, Jones went through to shoot straight at Kelly, who should never have had a chance.

This miss was almost immediately penalised as North End went down the other end and scored. John Barton failed to gather a long ball from George Ross and Rovers' full-back Billy Wilson, trying to clear, sliced the ball across goal and hit Alan SPAVIN, the ball rebounding into the net.

Rovers should have equalised within a minute with Jones again missing when put through by Ferguson. His hasty shot was screwed well wide. Then Clayton went up for a midfield header, missed the ball and Alex Dawson got possession. He pushed it through to Frank LEE who went on to beat Barton very coolly for North End's second goal after 72 minutes. From then on, Rovers seemed to throw in the sponge!

Preston extended their lead shortly afterwards when Alex DAWSON, who had already had a spectacular header disallowed for offside scored his side's third goal. Wilson sent two opponents the wrong way, drew and beat another, then pushed the ball neatly to Godfrey who squared it low and accurately through a non-plused Blackburn defence for the No.9 to convert.

Then the niggling started - Jones had his name taken after an incident involving Godfrey, while Ferguson was lucky to escape with a lecture after tangling with Ross and then talking back to the referee.

The disintegration was complete and in the dying minutes of the game, Rovers could so easily have conceded one or two more goals as Dawson and Godfrey went close.

Frank Lee, on the score-sheet.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 8th October 1966

Gallant North End fall to Davies hat-trick.

Preston North End made their big effort at Bolton too late and finished sharing with Bristol City, the worst away record in the Second Division - one point and three goals from six games. Two of these were scored without reply in the last half-hour with the Wanderers, leaders of Division Two, already winning 4-0 and understandably inclined to relax!

Yet few sides would have had enough spirit left to fight back as bravely when four goals down and even look like saving a point.

However, there was no doubt about the Wanderers' first-half superiority. They were faster, more thrustful and much more economical and effective than a laboured North End. Wingers Francis Lee and Gordon Taylor had the beating of the North End full-backs and the latters' penetrative play led to the home side taking the lead midway through the first-half. After beating Kendall for pace, Taylor's cross to the near post was headed home by DAVIES who had stolen a march on centre-half Tony Singleton.

The Welsh international was receiving some fine crosses from the flanks and his presence in the penalty area was of great concern to North End's debutant goalkeeper John Brown. When the Wanderers extended their lead shortly before half-time, the Preston keeper got his hands to DAVIES' powerfully struck volley but couldn't prevent the ball from crossing the line.

The Wanderers could have gone further ahead before the interval but the young keeper saved well from both Hill and Lee.

Bolton went 3-0 up just after half-time when DAVIES completed his hat-trick, heading home a Francis Lee cross and then went further ahead after 55 minutes when North End's Bill CRANSTON unluckily put through his own goal when under pressure from Davies.

Then for the next half-an-hour or so, it was all North End. Alex DAWSON, who had been well marshalled by John Napier, suddenly lost his marker and headed home Ernie Hannigan's cross. The burly Scotsman reduced the arrears again minutes later when Frank Lee's cross to the far post saw DAWSON climb higher than Napier and Hatton and head into the roof of the net.

Dawson might have had a simple opportunity of repeating Davies' hat-trick, with nothing more to do than tap the ball into virtually an open goal, if Dave Wilson, instead of making a first time square pass, had not selfishly tried and failed to work an opening of his own invention!

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 4 Preston North End 2

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (Davies 3 Cranston og)
PNE (Dawson 2)

Attendance
20,239

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
E.Hopkinson C.Cooper S.Farrimond
W.Rimmer J.Napier D.Hatton F.Lee
B.Bromley W.Davies F.Hill G.Taylor
Preston North End
J.Brown H.Kendall J.Smith A.Spavin
T.Singleton W.Cranston D.Wilson
E.Hannigan A.Dawson B.Godfrey F.Lee
sub N.Lawton

What the papers said
Walter Pilkington in the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Bolton underestimated Preston's morale and staying powers. But a valiant recovery is not much consolation for a team and their supporters returning home with little else to be pleased about. Where was all the determination in the first hour? Why did it take North End so long to get into top gear? I have little doubt that if Preston had shown the same aliveness and perseverance earlier, there would have been a different result'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Saturday 18th November 1967

Rovers romp back on the victory trail.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackburn Rovers 5

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Ritchie pen Lyall Lee)
Blackburn R (Hole 2 Gilliver Darling Ferguson (pen))

Attendance
20,039

Line-ups
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross J.Ritchie J.Smith T.Singleton A.Spavin J.Forrest G.Lyall D.Temple A.Gemmill F.Lee sub P.Crossley
Blackburn Rovers
A.Blacklaw K.Newton W.Wilson R.Clayton J.Coddington B.Hole M.Ferguson E.Rogers A.Gilliver M.Darling J.Connelly

What the papers said

Alan Hubbard of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'Fog, frost and a deep depression over Deepdale. Yet piercing through the gloom on Saturday was an infra-red ray of hope - for Blackburn Rovers! If they continue to play like this then the flair and method that brought them the 5-3 victory over a pathetic Preston will surely earn a richer reward'.

Blackburn Rovers bounced right back to form after three away defeats, coasting to a well-deserved 5-3 victory over Preston in the Deepdale derby. The Rovers played some tremendous football and but for some incredible misses and Alan Kelly's brilliant goalkeeping they would have doubled their score against a very poor North End side.

George Lyall, about the only player to emerge with credit from this game.

Eight goals, including two last minute penalties, compensated the cold crowd of 20,039 for the sheer indifference shown by the North End side. There must have been many who wondered how Preston managed to get three goals for their work-rate was abysmally low!

The first-half of the game was quite a placid affair with Rovers' keeper Adam Blacklaw having only a couple of shots to save. By comparison Alan Kelly was overworked, the Republic of Ireland international keeper again becoming North End's saviour. Both Gilliver and Hole forced the Preston keeper into making fine saves before HOLE gave Rovers the lead with a powerful shot from distance. Minutes later, Alan GILLIVER headed the visitors' second goal, his first strike since a leg operation twelve months previously.

Early in the second-half, North End reduced the arrears when George LYALL side-footed home a cross by Lee but Rovers Welsh international wing-half Barrie HOLE scored his second goal of the game moments later with another powerful drive. George Lyall was having a good game in midfield for North End and it was he who hit a long ball into the path of Frank LEE for the winger to shoot past the advancing Blacklaw. Just as it seemed North End had everything to play for, Rovers regained their two-goal lead when Malcolm DARLING headed past Kelly.

It had been a hectic start to the second-half with the four goals coming in the space of just 18 minutes.

Even though he had conceded four goals, Kelly continued to thwart the visitors' forwards, both Connelly and Gilliver having shots acrobatically turned aside by the North End keeper.

In the 89th minute, Rovers went 5-2 up when Gemmill upended Rogers in the area and FERGUSON netted from the resultant penalty. Then just before the final whistle sounded, Adam Blacklaw brought down Derek Temple and North End full-back John RITCHIE scored the game's last goal. Neither of the two penalties should have been conceded but they added further excitement to a grey afternoon.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 13th December 1969

Connelly hat-trick for rampant Rovers.

North End were lambs for the slaughter in the first-half of this local derby against Second Division leaders Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park.

Rovers made a great start when they took the lead after three minutes. Mulvaney sent Metcalfe away and the young midfielder carried the ball forward before slipping it into the middle. The ball was deflected by Ritchie straight into the path of MARTIN who beat Kelly from close range with a quickly taken shot.

The home side continued to make all the running and won two corners in quick succession on the right and from the second, Mulvaney was only just over the bar with a good shot.

North End, who were playing in unfamiliar red shirts and white shorts, launched their first dangerous attack at the end of quarter-of-an-hour but Wilson was stopped at the expense of a corner. The visitors were hard pressed to make much impact and it was no surprise when Blackburn scored a second goal in the 19th minute. Rogers intercepted a clearance from Ross and split the Preston defence with a lovely through pass to CONNELLY who smashed the ball past Kelly. It was a great drive which entered the net off the underside of the bar.

Rovers then had claims for a penalty turned down after Knighton went down under a challenge from Gemmill and North End breathed a sigh of relief when Kelly made a good save from a swerving free-kick taken by Rogers. Blackburn went further ahead on 27 minutes when CONNELLY deflected a Metcalfe shot out of Kelly's reach.

North End had a great chance to reduce the arrears when Wilson was left in the clear following a good run by Ritchie. The move looked certain to create a goal but the winger shot yards wide with Blacklaw out of position.

Wilson got another chance from a through pass by Temple as North End tried to get back into the game and this time he was unlucky with a good shot which scraped the outside of Blacklaw's right-hand post.

Early in the second-half, Connelly missed an easy chance to complete his hat-trick, heading over the bar from the edge of the six-yard box after Darling's cross had left him with the goal at his mercy. It was still all Rovers and Kelly had to tip a Martin volley over the bar before diving in spectacular style to cut out a dangerous centre from the right.

North End eventually pulled themselves together and reduced the lead on the hour when TEMPLE beat Blacklaw from the edge of the box following good work by Wilson. HEPPOLETTE later scored a second for Preston but with both defences wide open it was Rovers who scored the game's final goal, CONNELLY finally completing his hat-trick after good play involving Newton and Metcalfe.

Final Score
Blackburn Rovers 4 Preston North End 2

Venue
Ewood Park

Scorers
Blackburn R (Martin Connelly 3)
PNE (Temple Heppolette)

Attendance
16,216

Blackburn Rovers
A.Blacklaw K.Newton W.Wilson A.Hunter
R.Mulvaney K.Knighton (J.Fryatt)
J.Connelly S.Metcalfe D.Martin
E.Rogers M.Darling
Preston North End
A.Kelly G.Ross J.Ritchie A.Spark
G.Hawkins R.Heppolette D.Wilson
A.Spavin G.Ingram A.Gemmill D.Temple
sub F.Lee

What the papers said
Norman Shakeshaft of the Lancashire Evening Telegraph wrote 'North End had a nightmare experience as Blackburn ripped their defence apart time after time. Nothing went right for Preston as Rovers exposed their deficiencies in an alarming way'.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Ricky Heppolette's goal couldn't prevent defeat at Ewood.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Monday 13th April 1970

Pickering hat-trick sees North End relegated.

The Seasiders could win promotion if they won this local derby, whilst North End would be left hanging by a thread at the bottom of the table if they lost and as the night progressed, that was the only likely outcome in the most one-sided of encounters!

Blackpool could have taken the lead as early as the fifth minute when Tommy Hutchison's cross evaded the North End defence to give Suddick a chance at the far post but the Seasiders' inside-forward shot into the side-netting. The visitors continued to push forward and Pickering headed down a Mickey Burns corner for John Craven to test Alan Kelly from just outside the area.

The Seasiders deservedly took the lead after 16 minutes when Burns again got away on the right, his deep cross found Fred PICKERING at the far post completely unmarked and he headed into an unguarded net.

North End were hardly in the game as Blackpool continued to dominate. On the half-hour mark, a beautiful through ball by Alan Suddick found Burns but Kelly was equal to his shot.

Preston's only chance of the first-half, if you can call it a chance, fell to Alan Spavin but his cross-cum-shot landed gently in the arms of Blackpool keeper Harry Thomson.

Blackpool extended their lead five minutes before the interval when a delightful through ball from Hutchison found overlapping full-back Bill Bentley. He in turn, crossed for PICKERING to power home a header into the roof of the net past a static Alan Kelly.

The Seasiders' centre-forward had a chance to score his third goal of the game on the stroke of half-time but is first-time volley from a Burns' cross, sailed inches wide of Kelly's right-hand upright.

Blackpool created a number of goalscoring opportunities during the early stages of the second-half but Republic of Ireland international keeper Alan Kelly was in fine form.

However, even he could do little to deny the Seasiders' in the 58th minute as PICKERING finally completed his hat-trick. A shot from Tommy Hiutchison rebounded off Kelly's legs and there was the Blackpool No.9 to simply tap the ball into the empty goal.

That there was no further scoring was in itself a miracle as North End endured one of the most horrific nights in their history. Fans chanted for the head of manager Bobby Seith as North End suffered relegation to the Third Division for the first time in their history.

Final Score
Preston North End 0 Blackpool 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (-)
Blackpool (Pickering 3)

Attendance
35,400

Line-ups
Preston North End
A.Kelly B.Patrick J.McNab G.Hawkins
K.Cranston R.Heppolette F.Lee (W.Irvine)
A.Spavin N.Lloyd A.Gemmill D.Temple
Blackpool
H.Thomson J.Armfield B.Bentley
J.McPhee G.James D.Hatton M.Burns
J.Craven F.Pickering A.Suddick
T.Hutchison

Derek Temple.

Alex Bruce scored the only goal to ensure safety.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 28th April 1973

Vital point ensures safety!

There was too much at stake for both teams to make this 'derby' a classic. But the fans were nevertheless treated to an absorbing nail-biting clash between two sides of contrasting style and ambition.

Relegation threatened North End had decided from the outset that they could not match champions elect Burnley for skill. They narrowed the pitch by four yards, liberally watered the centre area and packed eight defenders around their goal! The effect was to restrict space for Burnley's attack and although they had a vastly greater possession of the ball they had very little room in which to manoeuvre.

The pattern of the game was quickly set with Burnley pounding away to find a route through North End's human barrier and it seemed only a matter of time before they scored. But to the surprise of everyone it was Preston who took the lead two minutes before half-time and shortly after surviving a penalty appeal when Baxter appeared to handle the ball!

The Clarets defence had dealt comfortably with North End's long balls out of defence but there was always a danger that in their search for goals at the other end, they might overstretch and be caught out. And so it was to prove. A long ball down the North End left was too high for Ingham, who could only head the ball into the air. It fell just right for Lamb who ran over 40 yards to the penalty area before squaring a pass inside to BRUCE who shot past Stevenson from 10 yards.

The goal coming at such a great psychological moment, changed the course of the game.

Burnley, after looking certain winners were now fighting for equality and when Snookes cleared Fletcher's header off the line early in the second-half, it looked as if it wouldn't be their day.

However, in the 53rd minute, from Casper's throw-in on the left, Dobson sent an overhead kick to the edge of the penalty area. Colin WALDRON headed the ball forward and when it was half-cleared back to him, the Burnley centre-half sent a 25 yard volley into the top corner of Alan Kelly's goal. A minute later, a Doug Collins run ended with a right-foot shot inches wide. North End were now up against it and Kelly rescued them with a superb save as James broke down the middle.

In the closing stages of the game, Spark shot wide from a good position after the Burnley defence had got into a terrible tangle.

So in the end everyone got the result they wanted - North End kept their Second Division status and Burnley, who finished the season with 30 away points, won the divisional Championship.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Bruce)
Burnley (Waldron)

Attendance
21,550

Line-ups
Preston North End
A.Kelly J.McMahon E.Snookes J.Bird
G.Hawkins S.Baxter D.Connor A.Bruce
A.Lamb A.Spark N.Young sub H.McIlmoyle
Burnley
A.Stevenson W.Ingham K.Newton
M.Dobson C.Waldron J.Thomson G.Nulty
F.Casper P.Fletcher D.Collins L.James
sub R.Hankin

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tuesday 22nd August 1978

Rovers destroyed by Bruce's brilliance.

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Blackburn Rovers 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Doyle Robinson Bruce 2)
Blackburn R (Gregory)

Attendance
15,412

Line-ups
Preston North End
R.Tunks D.Cameron (J.Smith) H.Wilson
S.Doyle M.Baxter G.Cross F.Burns
S.Haselgrave M.Robinson R.Thomson
A.Bruce
Blackburn Rovers
J.Butcher K.Hird J.Bailey M.Fowler
G.Keeley J.Waddington S.Metcalfe
(N.Brotherston) D.Gregory J.Radford
T.Parkes J.Aston

What the papers said
David Allin in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph wrote 'There is no point in mincing words, Blackburn Rovers, punchless in front of goal, totally bereft of ideas in midfield and an utter shambles at the back were run off their feet by Preston at Deepdale last night'.

Having won promotion from the Third Division the previous season, North End entertained rivals Blackburn Rovers in their first home League game in Division Two.

It was certainly a true test of the club's credentials as the visitors finished fifth in the previous season's Second Division campaign.

Rovers took the lead after just three minutes when Danny Cameron accidentally handled the ball just outside the area. Tony Parkes rolled the free-kick to Stuart Metcalfe whose powerfully struck shot cannoned off the crossbar. The ball bounced nicely for David GREGORY to head over the outstretched arms of Roy Tunks.

From then on, it was one-way traffic as North End proceeded to play some delightful football. They equalised in the 12th minute when Alex Bruce found Francis Burns wide on the left. The former Manchester United player crossed hard and low into the box where Michael ROBINSON came thundering in on the blind side to steer the ball past Rovers' keeper John Butcher.

North End were now running Rovers ragged and creating opening after opening. Thomson, Haselgrave and Robinson all came close with shots from the edge of the area before the hardworking DOYLE put the home side ahead after 26 minutes. Once again the goal was created by Bruce who after cutting in from the left, laid the ball perfectly for the Welsh youngster to side-foot the ball under the diving body of John Butcher.

Alex Bruce grabs a brace.

Five minutes after the interval, North End extended their lead when Kevin Hird failed to control a loose ball and Thomson seized the opportunity to win the ball and send BRUCE away on the right. There was no stopping his 25-yard angled drive which beat Butcher's despairing dive and entered the net off the far post.

North End continued to control the game and in the 74th minute they went 4-1 up.

Thomson's corner was headed towards goal by Francis Burns and though Butcher managed to block the effort, the ball landed at the feet of the predatory BRUCE, whose first shot struck the Rovers' keeper but he then made amends with his second attempt.

The home side had further chances to score as Baxter headed just wide from a Haselgarve cross and Bruce had his shot well saved by Butcher - the North End fans were hopeful that the popular striker would net his hat-trick but it wasn't to be, although he certainly deserved it!

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 20th October 1979

Thomson 'double' in see-saw battle.

In a see-sawing match of great endeavour but limited quality, Burnley twice fought back to equalise, only to have the point they probably deserved snatched from their grasp by North End's third goal. The 3-2 scoreline makes the match appear better than it really was but apart from the goals, the two goalkeepers hardly had a shot to save between them!

North End went ahead after only three minutes when Ricky Thomson's strong run through the inside-left channel pulled the visitors' defence apart. Although Derek Scott blocked his centre, the ball broke to Haselgrave who hit it first time into the centre for BRUCE to head into the net at the near post.

Shortly afterwards, Burnley keeper Alan Stevenson parried Steve Elliott's fierce drive before the Clarets went straight to the other end to score a 25th minute equaliser. As Martin DOBSON hit a 25 yard drive, the ball took a vital deflection off Baxter and looped over the head of Roy Tunks and into the net. Preston then enjoyed their most impressive spell of attacking in the 20 minutes before the interval, with Graham Bell prompting well from midfield and Ricky Thomson looking their most dangerous forward.

North End went ahead on the stroke of half-time when Stevenson allowed THOMSON's 20 yard low shot to bounce over his hands as he dived to save.

During the opening exchanges of the second-half, the Clarets posed plenty of problems and inevitably chances came their way. Paul Fletcher headed over after Tunks had missed a Leighton James corner, whilst Steve Kindon, who had been put clear by Noble, stabbed a tame shot across the face of goal.

Eventually, Burnley's pressure paid off with a 77th minute equaliser. A free-kick from James produced headers by Fletcher and Jim Thomson before substitute Eric Potts sent a poor clearing header across his own goal to JAMES who drove it back into the far corner of the net.

After Ian Brennan had kicked a shot from Potts off the line, the Clarets never successfully cleared the danger. When the ball finally broke to Ricky THOMSON in the inside-left position, he sprinted through the visitors' defence to send a mis-hit shot bobbling into the far corner of Stevenson's net.

Even then the visitors were desperately close to equalising again as Noble met Kindon's cross with a firm header which skidded inches the wrong side of the post. Though Burnley's season ended in relegation, their second-half fightback certainly warranted some measure of reward.

Steve Elliott.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Burnley 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Thomson 2 Bruce)
Burnley (Dobson James)

Attendance
12,300

Line-ups
Preston North End
R.Tunks B.Taylor D.Cameron F.Burns
M.Baxter J.Blackley G.Bell S.Haselgarve
S.Elliott (E.Potts) R.Thomson A.Bruce
Burnley
A.Stevenson D.Scott J.Thomson
B.Rodaway I.Brennan M.Dobson P.Noble
K.Young L.James P.Fletcher S.Kindon
sub V.Overson

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Tuesday 20th October 1981

Midfield stalemate in centenary celebrations.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (O'Riordan)
Burnley (Wharton)

Attendance
7,521

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.Litchfield G.Coleman A.McAteer J.Clark
T.Booth D.O'Riordan J.Kelly G.Buckley
A.Bruce S.Doyle H.Dunn (B.Taylor)
Burnley
A.Stevenson B.Laws V.Overson M.Phelan
M.Dobson A.Wharton D.Scott T.Steven
K.Young B.Hamilton S.Taylor sub E.Potts

What the papers said
Peter Higgs in the Burnley Express wrote 'The two goalkeepers became the two most idle players on the pitch as Burnley and Preston mustered only a handful of shots between them!

The new system of three points for a win was intended to encourage teams to go flat out for victory. But no-one seemed to have told Preston and Burnley, whose safety-first tactics largely contributed to a boring 1-1 draw in a match chosen in advance as the game to celebrate North End's centenary.

Both sides played only two players in attack, packed the midfield and were more concerned about containing their opponents than scoring goals.

The outcome was a fast and furious match in which the marking was tight, tackles came flying in with great regularity, so that no player could settle on the ball and the defensive organisation was superb. But the game was played at such a frantic pace that there was very little control, a lot of basic errors in passing and ball control and very few fluent moves.

The first-half was a very dour affair, though Alex Bruce brought a fine save out of Burnley keeper Alan Stevenson and Steve Doyle headed over from a John Kelly cross.

Don O'Riordan celebrates the opener.

At the other end, Litchfield took the ball off Young's toes as the Burnley man shaped to shoot.

After the half-time presentations in which Manchester United's Sir Matt Busby presented chairman Alan Jones with a clock on behalf of the Football League, the game suddenly livened up.

A mistake by Litchfield almost led to Burnley taking the lead in the 51st minute. The North End keeper failed to hold a centre from Brian Laws as Hamilton moved in to challenge. The ball fell to Steve Taylor whose header from six yards was headed off the line by Don O'Riordan. This narrow miss was the start of a ten-minute period of incident in which both goals were scored.

Preston went in front after a period of pressure in the 57th minute. A left-wing corner from Kelly was headed on by Booth and as O'RIORDAN volleyed the ball goalwards, it deflected off Barry Dunn and into the net.

Four minutes later, the Clarets scored a splendid equaliser. Derek Scott's through ball put Hamilton away down the right. His low cross caused confusion in the North End penalty area and when the ball broke to Andy WHARTON, the defender drove a perfectly-timed shot into the net.

Three players - Preston's Doyle and McAteer and Burnley's Overson - were booked in a match which was fiercely fought but never a dirty game.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 11th December 1982

North End coast to comfortable Cup win.

The best thing for North End fans about this scrappy Deepdale derby was the 2-1 result. This gave them a mouth-watering tie against Leeds United, who were riding high at the top of Division Two.

The first FA Cup tie between Preston and Blackpool for 63 years, was only four minutes old when the Seasiders' Dave Hockaday was injured in a challenge and had to be replaced by Andy Brockbank. Just before he was injured. Hockaday had headed narrowly wide from a Dave Bamber centre. Blackpool were also weakened by the absence of Keith Pritchard and John Deary who were replaced by John Butler and Peter Noble, whilst Paul Stewart had been out of action for some time. The substitution unbalanced the Blackpool side allowing Preston to have most of the possession before the interval, although Bamber went close with a shot which went just over the bar.

North End controlled things even more in the second-half and leading scorer Steve Elliott should have scored the game's first goal in Preston's first attack. Unfortunately, he shot straight into the arms of Iain Hesford. Preston took the lead they had been threatening, when in the 52nd minute, when club captain Gordon COLEMAN headed his first goal of the season. This, after Alan Gowling had flicked on a Willie Naughton corner which Iain Hesford could not clear in a crowded goalmouth.

Preston's regular team captain Don O'RIORDAN headed North End's second goal on 70 minutes when Hesford failed to clear another Naughton corner.

The game was virtually all over then, but the Seasiders began to fight back with Billy Jeffrey shooting over and Steve Hetzke having a good shot well saved by Preston keeper Peter Litchfield.

Preston too came close to extending their lead with both Graham Houston, who had an outstanding game and midfielder Peter Sayer having long range shots saved by Iain Hesford. Elliott also had a header that was cleared off the line by Blackpool full-back David Bardsley.

The Seasiders then got a consolation goal in injury time when substitute Andy BROCKBANK scored after Preston keeper Peter Litchfield did not clear a Bobby Downes corner.

Though the game was never a classic, this kick and rush derby saw North End extend their unbeaten run to five League and Cup games.

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Blackpool 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (O'Riordan Coleman)
Blackpool (Brockbank)

Attendance
14,148

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.Litchfield S.Westwell A.McAteer
D.O'Riordan G.Coleman A.Gowling
M.Walsh P.Sayer S.Elliott W.Naughton
G.Houston sub T.Booth
Blackpool
I.Hesford D.Bardsley J.Butler P.Noble
S.Hetzke D.Serella D.Hockaday
(A.Brockbank) W.Jeffrey D.Bamber
T.Pashley S.Downes

What the papers said
Norman Shakeshaft writing in the Lancashire Evening Post said 'The build up to this cup-tie had been a long one with the Post sponsoring the game and the winter sunshine brought out 'fans' who normally stay at home to boost the crowd to 14,148, the best attendance of the campaign.'

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Peter Sayer (centre).

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 6th March 1984

Clarets mauled in one-sided derby.

The almost 'shell-shocked' faces of the Burnley fans who streamed away from Deepdale with quarter-of-an-hour still to play told the story of this game.

Though the Clarets had faced far better than North End during the course of the season, Alan Kelly had done a tremendous job at Deepdale having taken over as boss.

Burnley had Dennis Tueart back following an injury and it was he who produced the first effort in an action-packed match when his chip shot just dipped over. Successive corners for North End left Burnley keeper Roger Hansbury looking unsure of himself and as the other defenders tried to protect him and got themselves into all sorts of trouble, Preston took the lead on eight minutes.

The ball bounced about all over the six-yard box before Steve ELLIOTT mis-hit his shot, only to see Hansbury allow the ball to squirm from his grasp and roll over the line. Within three minutes, Hansbury should have been picking the ball out of the net again as Elliott fed Houghton who missed from six yards out with the goal at his mercy. North End then had a 'goal' disallowed after Houghton knocked Hansbury and the ball over the line! Then Willie Naughton crossed for Jonathan Clark to head over when he really should have found the target. The home side could have been four goals up by now but then the pattern of play changed dramatically and it was North End's defence which showed signs of panic.

North End score again to shock Clarets.

After Tueart had flashed a shot past the post, the Clarets drew level five minutes before half-time when Willie DONACHIE volleyed home a glorious shot from 20 yards.

The second-half was only three minutes old when KELLY intercepted a pass meant for Tueart, moved forward and beat Hansbury from the edge of the box.

Midway through the half came two Preston goals in the space of three minutes. Mike FARRELLY shot home the first after Hansbury had only blocked Kelly's free-kick and then Baker stood on the ball and lost it for Naughton and Andy McAteer to combine for HOUGHTON to net North End's fourth.

Tueart raised Burnley's hopes with a header from a Hutchison cross but found Litchfield in brilliant form to tip the ball over the angle of the goal. Then on 89 minutes he produced another great save to keep out a fierce free-kick from Hutchison but when the corner came over, TUEART was there to ram the ball into the net.

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Burnley 2

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Hinnigan Kelly Elliott Houghton)
Burnley (Donachie Tueart)

Attendance
8,812

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.Litchfield J.Hinnigan A.McAteer
D.Jones G.Twentyman J.Clark J.Kelly
M.Farrelly S.Elliott W.Naughton
P.Houghton (G.Houston)
Burnley
R.Hansbury S.Baker W.Donachie
M.Phelan M.Dobson S.Daley D.Tueart
D.Scott B.Hamilton W.Biggins
T.Hutchison sub B.Flynn

What the papers said
Grenville Shackleton of the Burnley Express wrote 'Hundreds of Clarets' fans who had gone to the game with such high hopes were probably well away from the ground when Burnley scored their second goal to make the scoreline look a bit more respectable'.

John Kelly scored the second goal in this derby treat.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 3rd November 1984

Derby treat despite Deepdale downpour.

It was remarkable that this match was even played and incredible that it provided a feast of entertainment and goals to send the 4,995 spectators home feeling they had been given their moneys worth. The fact that the majority of those spectators were already in the ground when referee Joe Worrall came out to propel a ball across the waterlogged surface probably influenced his decision to go ahead with the game.

But both sets of players quickly justified that decision by providing a swashbuckling 90 minutes of honest endeavour which brought spills and thrills in abundance. It was soon obvious that the game was going to be a lottery as the ball stopped suddenly and players skidded on, completely out of control.

Burnley could have scored from their first real move of the game when Wayne Biggins pushed a pass into the path of Tommy Hutchison who was left with a great chance until the ball stopped dead and left the Clarets' skipper going it alone.

Only six minutes had gone when the ball played tricks again but this time it worked to Preston's advantage as Joe Gallagher attempted a back-pass to Roger Hansbury. The ball stopped short and Nigel GREENWOOD nipped in to put the home side 1-0 up.

Five minutes later, the Clarets were level when Wayne BIGGINS spotted North End keeper Peter Litchfield off his line and hit a viciously dipping volley over his head.

The game was less than a quarter-of-an-hour old when North End regained the lead as the ever-dangerous Willie Naughton shrugged off a tackle from Miller and crossed for John KELLY to net from close range. The fast and furious start to the game continued and after twenty minutes it was 2-2 as Wayne BIGGINS netted his and Burnley's second goal with a right-foot shot that curled round the Preston keeper.

Following a run of eight consecutive League defeats, North End showed their determination to give the Burnley defence some anxious moments before the break but there was no further scoring when the half-time whistle sounded.

Early in the second-half, North End's new signing Terry Gray had three chances in the space of five minutes to become the idol of Deepdale. He shot high over the bar in the 51st minute, then saw Hansbury foil him with a couple of excellent saves.

After 61 minutes, Burnley got in front for the first time in the match with a rather strange goal.

As a centre from Grewcock came over from the right, WHATMORE and Litchfield went for it, the goalkeeper tried to punch the ball away but only succeeded in putting it right on the striker's head and in it went!

Two minutes from time, North End were awarded a free-kick and the visitors couldn't clear it as Naughton hit a post and the ball bobbled up for GREENWOOD to ram the ball home for the equaliser.

What had threatened to become an afternoon of farce had been transformed into an enjoyable game with honours even.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Burnley 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Kelly Greenwood 2)
Burnley (Biggins 2 Whatmore)

Attendance
4,995

Line-ups
Preston North End
P.Litchfield M.Jones A.McAteer
M.Farrelly G.Twentyman J.Clark J.Kelly
T.Gray N.Grenwood W.Naughton
G.Houston sub C.Hunter
Burnley
R.Hansbury P.malley P.Hampton
J.Gallagher V.Overson K.Hird
N.Grewcock D.Miller N.Whatmore
W.Biggins T.Hutchison (B.Flynn)

What the papers said
Burnley Express writer Grenville Shackleton said 'The result was just about right, for it would have been greatly unfair for either team to have come out of it without some reward after putting on such an outstanding show'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Tuesday 2nd September 1986

Preston's plastic men force Seasiders to melt!

Final Score
Preston North End 2 Blackpool 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Williams Hildersley)
Blackpool (Deary)

Attendance
5,914

Line-ups
Preston North End
D.Brown P.Bulmer A.McAteer L.Chapman
A.Jones S.Allardyce O.Williams J.Clark
J.Thomas R.Hildersley G.Brazil subs
S.Saunders R.Atkins
Blackpool
B.Siddall M.Davies J.Butler N.Law
M.Walsh C.Greenall J.Deary C.Thomson
P.Stewart R.Sendall (M.Taylor) A.Dyer

What the papers said
Tony Quested of the Blackpool Gazette wrote 'Preston's synthetic surface had nothing to do with Blackpool's generally artificial performance. Money may be tight or non-existent at Bloomfield Road but unless they swap or borrow their way into the transfer market for a striker and a foot-on-the-ball midfielder, the fans are in for a frustrating time'.

Awful mistakes by Blackpool's Mike Walsh and Barry Siddall harnessed to appalling finishing handed North End a 2-1 win the Littlewoods Cup which they can hardly have expected as the Seasiders took a stranglehold in the second-half.

Blackpool's Richard Sendall had virtually an open goal to aim at after just two minutes of this second-leg tie but smashed his volley against the bar. It would have given the Seasiders a 1-0 lead overall in the two-leg tie but instead, North End took charge.

Walsh hashed a clearance from Gary Brazil's cross and picked out Ronnie HILDERSLEY in front of goal. The North End midfielder crashed home his drive after only eight minutes to put the Whites ahead.

Brazil should have extended North End's lead a few minutes later as more eccentric defending by the Blackpool defence left him clear but he blazed his shot wide of the target.

Blackpool's Sendall was the culprit again after 33 minutes when he was clear at the far post but delayed his shot which was blocked on the line by Bulmer. Paul Stewart then saw a header from a cross by Dyer well saved by Brown diving to his left.

Seasiders' keeper Barry Siddall then kept the visitors in the hunt with an incredible save on the stroke of half-time to keep out a John Thomas header.

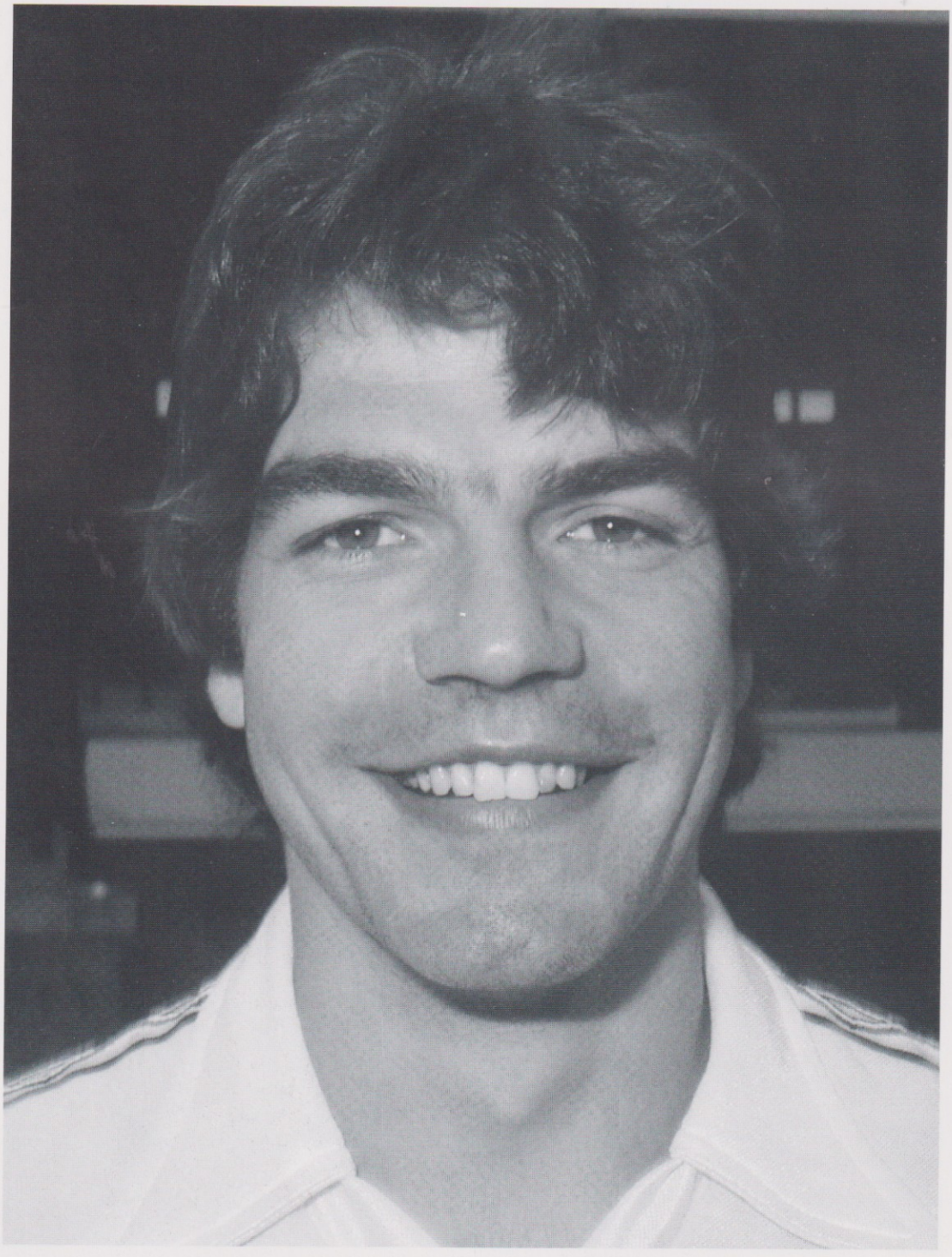
Blackpool were rewarded for their efforts two minutes into the second-half when Alex Dyer chipped the ball inside to John DEARY. He skipped past McAteer and Jones and sent a raking shot into the far corner of David Brown's net. Within the next five minutes, Blackpool's Paul Stewart had two penalty appeals turned down as on each occasion his charge into the box was halted by Preston arms!

The visitors seemed to be well in control but then made another glaring error. This time goalkeeper Barry Siddall was to blame. He came out to gather a harmless-looking cross-ball but let it slip from his grasp when challenged by Bulmer. The North End full-back got the loose ball and laid it back to Oshor WILLIAMS who crashed the ball home.

Butler should have equalised for the Seasiders in the 67th minute as Stewart picked him out with a fine cross. With only keeper David Brown to beat, Butler seemed to want too much time and his effort was blocked. Stewart and Deary went close for the visitors but North End had weathered the worst of the pressure and went close to scoring twice when John Thomas almost got touches to excellent left-wing centres.

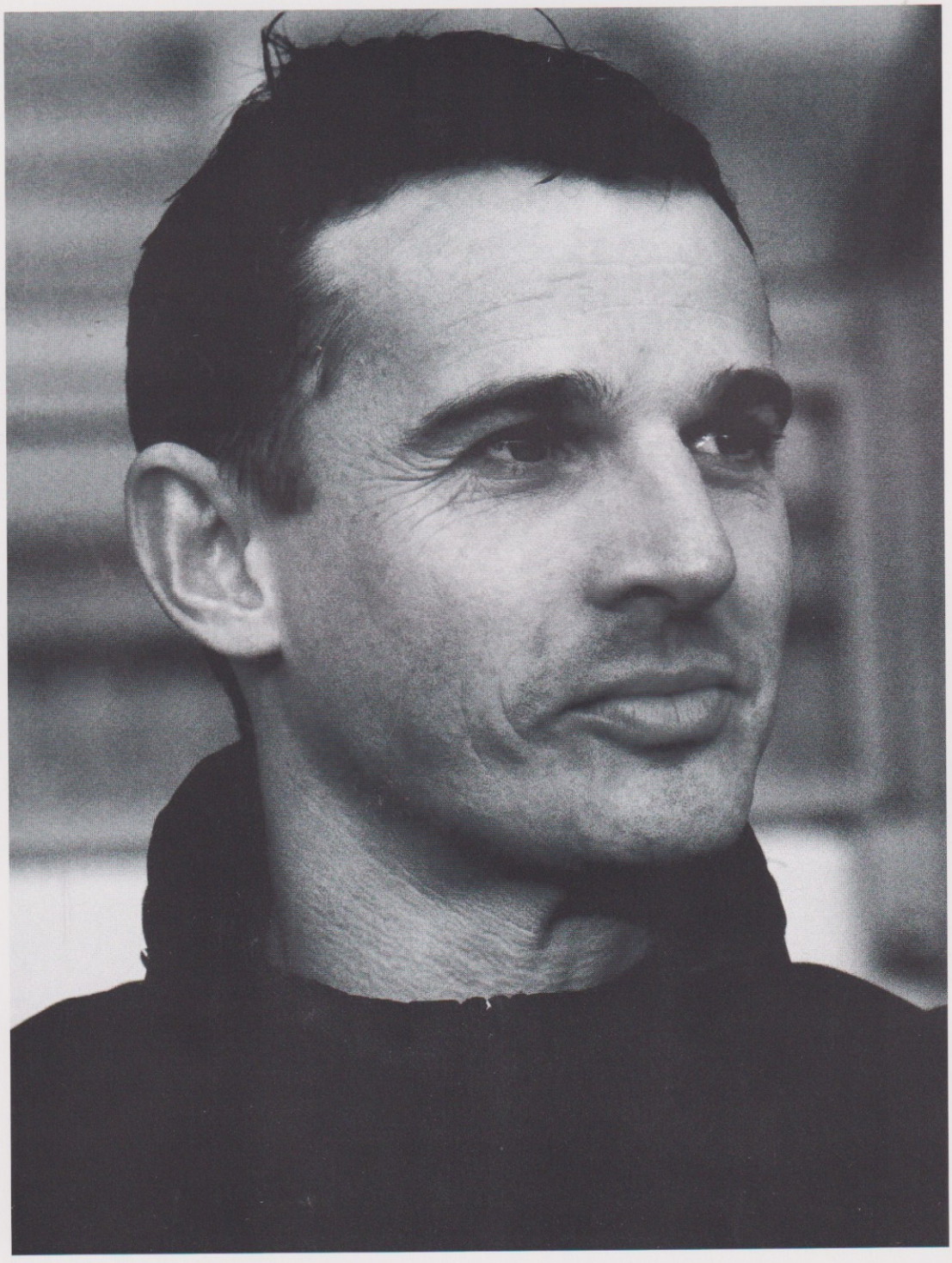
PRESTON NORTH END FC

Sam Allardyce has played for two, and managed two Lancashire teams.



PRESTON NORTH END FC

Gary Brazil tormented Burnley in the mid eighties.



BURNLEY v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 4th October 1986

Brazil and Thomas net doubles in easy win.

There is no doubt that this result was the biggest blow to all the people who strived to put the Turf Moor club back on its feet after the threat of closure had been averted.

The biggest home gate for two seasons must have included many who had been tempted back to see whether the Clarets really could wipe out some bad memories.

Right from the start, North End strikers Gary Brazil and John Thomas were threatening and from a move by these two, after Burnley centre-half Joe Gallagher had lost possession, Thomas curled a shot just wide of the far upright.

Burnley keeper Joe Neenan dropped a Brazil corner and Oshor Williams headed narrowly wide.

Brazil then beat the Clarets' keeper to a long ball put through the middle by Ronnie Hildersley and the home side breathed again when the winger swung the ball right across the face of the empty goal. North End deservedly took the lead after 32 minutes when BRAZIL moving inside with a pass from Thomas easily beat Neenan as he came out of his goal.

The Clarets' lack of confidence was highlighted when Wayne Entwistle put through by Derrick Parker ignored the chance of a shot and passed to Ashley Hoskin who then mis-kicked! A minute later following a corner by Hildersley, Neenan allowed an overhead kick from John THOMAS to creep into the net near the post.

There was a brief rally by the home side at the start of the second-half but then on 63 minutes, North End went 3-0 up. Williams pushed the ball through to BRAZIL. His shot beat Neenan and hit the post but while Burnley's defenders looked on, the Preston player followed through to stoop and head the ball into an empty net.

After 77 minutes, Burnley's defence was again caught flat-footed when McNeill sent the ball forward and THOMAS turned on it to shoot into the far corner of the net.

Ray Deakin the Clarets' skipper sent a tremendous drive inches over Brown's crossbar before the home side were awarded a dubious penalty two minutes from time for a handling offence! JAMES sent Brown the wrong way but by that time, the majority of the fans who had been encouraged back to Turf Moor were on their way home.

The game was made so easy for North End that it was surprising that Burnley got away with surrendering only four goals when they might easily have been swamped.

Final Score
Burnley 1 Preston North End 4

Venue
Turf Moor

Scorers
Burnley (James (pen))
PNE (Thomas 2 Brazil 2)

Attendance
5,865

Line-ups
Burnley
J.Neenan B.Rodaway P.Hampton .I.Britten
J.Gallagher R.Deakin N.Grewcock
D.Parker W.Entwistle L.James A.Hoskin
sub R.Regis
Preston North End
D.Brown R.McNeil M.Bennett L.Chapman
A.Jones R.Atkins O.Williams A.McAteer
J.Thomas R.Hildersley G.Brazil sub V.Allatt

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Tuesday 19th April 1988

Clarets snatch extra-time glory.

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Burnley 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Brazil)
Burnley (Oghani Hoskin Comstive)

Attendance
17,592

Line-ups
Preston North End
D.Brown D.Miller (L.Chapman) W.Joyce (O.Williams) R.Atkins A.Jones J.Wrightson B.Mooney G.Swann T.Ellis G.Brazil R.Hildersley
Burnley
C.Pearce S.McGrory R.Deakin I.Britton S.Davis S.Gardner A.Farrell (P.Malley) G.Oghani S.Taylor P.Comstive A.Hoskin sub P.Devaney

What the papers said
Grenville Shackleton in the Burnley Express wrote 'Unbelievable scenes followed the final whistle as Clarets ran to their fans, many of who had now got onto the pitch and it was difficult to sort out who were the players and fans as scarves and bobble caps were showered on the Burnley players. A scene reminiscent of Turf Moor last May but for so many different reasons'.

After holding Burnley to a goalless draw in the Sherpa Van Trophy Northern Area Final first leg at Turf Moor, North End were hopeful of victory and a place in the Wembley Final.

Clarets' keeper Chris Pearce had shown some difficulty in collecting the ball cleanly as he took it on the plastic pitch but he had already made one great, diving catch to keep out a shot from Brain Mooney before potential match-winner Gary Brazil squeezed the ball through Burnley's rearguard and into the path of Gary Swann. The keeper blocked Swann's shot and took the full force of his follow through. As he lay injured in the six-yard area, Ian Britton pounced on the loose ball, sent a superb pass through the middle where Bob Atkins failed to clear, allowing George OGHANI, Burnley's leading scorer to beat David Brown with a cross-shot.

The second-half was only minutes old when Pearce again pulled off a tremendous save to turn round the post a brilliant effort, hit with the outside of his right foot by Mooney and swerving viciously. As the corner was cleared, Burnley almost extended their lead as Comstive held off two defenders before shooting inches wide of Brown's right-hand post.

Brazil goal in vain.

North End drew level in the 66th minute when, following a free-kick, the lurking BRAZIL pounced to flash the ball past Pearce. In the dying seconds of the scheduled ninety minutes, Brazil shot narrowly wide whilst at the other end, Brown grabbed the ball at the feet of Steve Taylor.

After only three minutes of extra-time, Burnley took the lead. Deakin sent over a free-kick, Davis flicked it back to Oghani who produced a brilliant backheel for HOSKIN to blast the ball past Brown.

Mooney then went past three defenders in a mazy run before seeing his shot well saved by Pearce. Three minutes from the end, with North End pushing forward in search of an equaliser, Comstive charged forward, found Oghani to his right and when he returned the pass with Brown well out of his goal, COMSTIVE smashed the ball into the net to take the Clarets to Wembley.

The two games played by these clubs at this stage of the competition were a credit to football and tremendous value for money for the fans.

Preston's chairman Keith Leeming sportingly swallowed his disappointment at not reaching Wembley and sent the victorious Clarets a case of champagne immediately they returned to their dressing-room after being besieged by their fans.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Tuesday 19th February 1991

Jepson treble in Clarets' nightmare.

Despite struggling in the lower reaches of the Third Division, this Leyland Daf Northern Area semi-final tie against neighbours Burnley gave the Preston fans a little light relief from the relegation dogfight. Though with the Clarets pushing for promotion from the Fourth Division and North End having won just one of their last nine league games, there was little cause for optimism!

The crowd had hardly had chance to welcome the teams on to the field when Burnley's Ray Deakin attempted a headed back-pass. The ball bounced higher than he anticipated, Dave Thompson nipped in and squared the ball to Graham SHAW and he swept the ball home from eight yards out.

Barely two more minutes had elapsed when full-back Martin James unleashed a 25 yard shot which Clarets' stand-in keeper Dave Williams did well to stop but he had no chance at all in the 25th minute when JEPSON's shot took a wicked deflection and put North End two ahead. The Clarets were still reeling from this blow when JEPSON leapt to head home a Jeff Wrightson free-kick for his second and Preston's third just a minute later.

JEPSON popped up to complete his hat-trick in the 38th minute when Shaw cut through the defence and squared the ball. In the 40th minute, Jepson rifled a 20 yard shot just over the bar and five minutes after the interval he squared the ball to Warren Joyce whose shot went just wide of the far post.

On the hour mark, Burnley's John Francis ran from deep in his own half, took the ball past Adrian Hughes but saw his shot hit the side-netting.

Within a minute it was 5-0. Jepson latched on to a great through ball and squared it to SHAW who ad no trouble beating Williams from close range. On 78 minutes, the Burnley keeper made a great save, this time to deny Shaw's long range drive and six minutes later the Clarets' faithful had something to cheer as Ian BRAY back-heeled Joe Jakub's cross past a startled Simon Farnworth.

Moments later, a knee injury forced hat-trick hero Ronnie Jepson to be replaced and the striker who was making his home debut let to a tumultuous ovation.

In the 86th minute, his replacement Lee ASHCROFT fastened on to a through ball from Harper and though he was forced wide, he managed to find the net from the acutest of angles. North End nearly added to their tally in the last minute but captain Steve Davis cleared Steve Harper's shot off the line.

Ronnie Jepson, now a Claret.

Final Score
Preston North End 6 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Jepson 3 Shaw 2 Ashcroft)
Burnley (Bray)

Attendance
12,016

Line-ups
Preston North End
S.Farnworth M.James W.Joyce (D.Eaves)
A.Hughes M.Flynn J.Wrightson
D.Thompson A.Harper R.Jepson
(L.Ashcroft) G.Shaw G.Swann
Burnley
D.Williams I.Measham R.Deakin J.Deary
J.Pender S.Davis A.Farrell J.Francis R.Eli
(I.Bray) J.Jakub N.Grewcock (W.White)

What the papers said
Edward Lee writing in the Burnley Express said 'From start to finish this Leyland Daf Trophy tie was a nightmare as the Clarets conceded six for the first time since Frank Casper took over as manager. After the game the Burnley boss said that his team had been given a lesson in how to play on a plastic pitch'.

BLACKPOOL v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 10th October 1992

Ellis treble destroys the Seasiders.

Final Score
Blackpool 2 Preston North End 3

Venue
Bloomfield Road

Scorers
Blackpool (Sinclair Briggs)
PNE (Ellis 3)

Attendance
7,631

Line-ups
Blackpool
S.McIlhragey M.Davies (M.Bonner)
J.Murphy P.Horner G.Briggs I.Gore
T.Rodwell T.Sinclair I.Stringfellow
(R.Bond) A.Gouck D.Eyres
Preston North End
S.Farnworth J.Davidson L.Fowler
(R.Kidd) J.Tinkler M.Flynn A.Callaghan
L.Ashcroft L.Cartwright M.Leonard T.Ellis
(S.Finney) M.James

Tony Ellis: from hero to villain.

The Seasiders had lost just one of their last 41 games at Bloomfield Road and that was in November 1991 when Crewe Alexandra came away with a 2-0 win!

Yet only three minutes had been played in this local derby when North End took the lead. As Blackpool keeper Steve McIlhargey and forward Mark Leonard went to meet Mike Flynn's long throw, the ball cleared them both before bouncing kindly for Tony ELLIS to head into an empty net. McIlhargey wasn't having the best of afternoons, for eight minutes later, he gifted another goal to the Whites. Aaron Callaghan's free-kick from deep inside his own half, found Leonard, who laid the ball back to Lee Ashcroft. The North End winger completely wrong-footed Murphy before getting in a shot. Though the Blackpool keeper got his hands to the ball, he couldn't hold it and ELLIS was on hand to score his and North End's second goal.

The visitors should have been awarded a penalty after quarter-of-an-hour when Ellis put Tinkler clean through. Yet despite being upended by McIlhargey, the young midfielder's claims for a penalty were ignored.

Blackpool eventually got their act together and Leonard back helping the defence, had to head clear from under the bar. North End keeper Simon Farnworth was forced to race from his box to clear from Trevor Sinclair but in the resulting challenge, the Seasiders winger was left in a heap. All eyes were on the referee as North End fans feared that Farnworth would receive his marching orders but the official only produced a yellow card.

Future Preston player David Eyres sprung the visitors' offside trap but was denied by Farnworth as the Preston keeper stuck out a foot!

There had been almost six minutes of injury-time played at the end of the first-half when Blackpool reduced the arrears. David Eyres' accurate cross from wide on the left found the unmarked Trevor SINCLAIR, who powered a header out of Farnworth's reach.

Despite taking a knock in the face during the early stages of the second-half, Tony ELLIS completed his hat-trick after steering his shot wide of McIlhargey. On 50 minutes he could have scored a fourth but the Blackpool keeper turned his shot round the post. Then Lee Ashcroft missed an absolute sitter, side-footing wide from just six yards out.

The Seasiders pushed forward in search of another goal and were rewarded when slack marking in the North End defence allowed Gary BRIGGS to head home a David Eyres' corner. In the final minute, Andy Gouck almost earned a point for the Seasiders when his header scraped the upright but the Whites hung on to record their first win at Bloomfield Road for 31 years.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Ellis got up from being knocked unconcious to notch a famous hat-trick.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 27th February 1993

Seasiders lead slips twice in pulsating derby.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackpool 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (L.Fowler Ellis 2)
Blackpool (Davies Watson 2)

Attendance
10,403

Line-ups
Preston North End
G.Johnstone G.Ainsworth R.Lucas
A.Callaghan M.Flynn C.Greenall L.Fowler
J.Fowler M.Norbury T.Ellis L.Ashcroft
subs L.Cartwright M.James
Blackpool
M.Dickins M.Davies M.Cook P.Horner
G.Briggs I.Gore A.Watson (N.Mitchell)
T.Sinclair D.Bamber A.Gouck D.Eyres
sub J.Murphy

What the papers said
Tony Durkin of the Blackpool Gazette wrote 'The fact that the Seasiders twice let the lead slip left a tinge of regret that they didn't make the short trip home with all three points. But Pool and their following of almost 4,000 couldn't help but be satisfied with a solid afternoon's work in a tense derby atmosphere'.

At Christmas, Billy Ayre's Blackpool side were rock bottom and without a League win since early September. But a run of just one defeat in the last 12 matches lifted them out of the bottom four and left them with an excellent chance of avoiding the drop. Their point from the first League derby at Deepdale for three and a half years stretched their unbeaten run to seven games. It certainly left the Seasiders with far more cause for celebration than a Preston side with only three wins to their name from 14 games under new manager John Beck.

The Seasiders took the lead after just six minutes when Andy Gouck's corner was met by Mike DAVIES 25 yards out and his right-foot drive completely deceived North End goalkeeper Glenn Johnstone as it soared into the top left-hand corner of the net.

Ten minutes later, North End were back on level terms. Mike Norbury got the better of Gary Briggs on the left and his cross was touched on by Lee Fowler for ELLIS to shoot home from eight yards.

Both sides had chances to go in at the break in front as Blackpool's Andy Watson saw a diagonal shot just go wide and Lee Ashcroft's 25 yard shot scraped the top of Matt Dickin's crossbar. On the stroke of half-time, Trevor Sinclair shot narrowly over from the edge of the box.

The 1-1 scoreline at half-time whetted the appetite for what turned out to be an even more enthralling second period.

It took only four minutes for Lee FOWLER to score the first goal of the second-half after his namesake John Fowler had set Ashcroft down the right. Seven minutes later, Blackpool's on-loan keeper Matt Dickins pulled off a crucial save as he blocked a shot from Lee Fowler after good build-up work from John Fowler and Norbury.

On the hour mark, WATSON sent a perfectly-timed looping header over Johnstone's head following a neat ball into the box by Phil Horner.

Ellis and Norbury both went close for North End but it was Blackpool who scored the game's fifth goal in the 75th minute. A corner from the left by David Eyres wasn't properly cleared by the home defence and Andy Gouck put in a shot towards goal which was deflected past Johnstone by WATSON.

But the celebrations of the Seasiders' travelling fans had hardly died down when Tony ELLIS levelled the scores with his sixth goal against Blackpool that season. His second strike was a header from the edge of the six yard box which flew past Dickins following a cross from the left by North End skipper Mike Flynn.

Despite the disappointment of losing the lead for a second time, the Seasiders went on creating chances and two minutes from time, Eyres broke clear on the left but his low cross went behind Sinclair and Watson waiting in the goalmouth.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 8th May 1993

Late penalty sends North End down.

Victory for Bolton Wanderers in this Burnden Park clash would secure promotion to the First Division for the Trotters, whilst North End needed to win to have any hope of remaining in Division Two.

Despite having players of the calibre of Lee Ashcroft and Tony Ellis missing, North End could have taken the lead after just 10 seconds when straight from the kick-off Mickey Norbury flicked the ball on for Simon Burton but he was just beaten to it by Wanderers' keeper Keith Branagan. A minute later, Lee Fowler's well-hit shot was well saved by Branagan as North End continued to have the better of the opening exchanges.

Eventually the Wanderers began to settle and former Bury winger David Lee made inroads into the North End penalty area only to be foiled by the alert Simon Farnworth. The North End keeper then saved from point-blank range from Jason McAteer before getting down to keep out headers from Julian Darby and Alan Stubbs.

The home side almost took the lead after 27 minutes when David Lee, who was having an outstanding game raced onto a lucky deflection, drew Farnworth out of goal but then slid his shot wide of the far post.

A couple of robust challenges by North End defenders on McGinlay and Lee saw the Wanderers appeal for a penalty but on each occasion the claim was turned down.

North End put two men on Lee at the start of the second-half but the Bolton flier continued to torment the visitors' defence. After having a shot charged down by Gareth Ainsworth, he hit the top of the North End crossbar after being set up by Mark Patterson. Shortly afterwards he saw his goalbound shot cleared off the line by Colin Greenall.

On the hour mark, North End substitute Liam Watson, who had replaced Fowler, was put away on the left by Neil Whalley. However, his attempted cross tot he unmarked Mickey Norbury was intercepted by Seagraves who cleared the danger for the Wanderers. Bolton continued to pose the greatest threat and on 75 minutes scored the goal that in all honesty they had been threatening all afternoon. David Lee's fist-time cross appeared to strike Simon Burton on the arm and thigh together but the referee had no hesitation in awarding the home side a penalty. Up stepped the Wanderers' leading scorer John McGINLAY to rifle the ball low past Simon Farnworth's right hand - the Wanderers promoted, North End relegated!

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 1 Preston North End 0

Venue
Burnden Park

Scorers
Bolton W (McGinlay (pen))
PNE (-)

Attendance
21,720

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
K.Branagan P.Brown D.Burke D.Lee
M.Seagraves A.Stubbs T.Kelly J.McAteer
J.Darby (S.Green) J.McGinlay M.Patterson
sub M.Winstanley
Preston North End
S.Farnworth A.Callaghan R.Lucas D.Whalley
R.Kidd C.Greenall L.Fowler (L.Watson)
G.Ainsworth M.Norbury S.Burton
M.Leonard. sub C.Holland

Colin Greenall, has that sinking feeling.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Mike Conroy's goal put North End in the next round.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Monday 14th November 1994

Conroy goal wins televised Cup game.

During the course of this season, there seemed a certain amount of unrest within the North End camp and it was obvious that not everyone was happy with John Beck's methods. In fact, the presence of so many national newspapers at what was effectively a lower division cup-tie owed as much to the rumours of Beck's fragile hold on his job as it did Sky Sports 'live' match treatment!

The game itself was hardly a classic - the tension and the weather conditions made certain of that, but North End deserved their place in round two as they out fought and outplayed their neighbours from a higher division.

Yet Blackpool should have taken the lead after just a matter of seconds but Neil Mitchell volleyed wildly off target after being set up by a Tony Ellis header. The Seasiders came close on a couple of other occasions before in the 14th minute, North End took the lead. Trebble hooked the ball through the middle, Conroy and Ainsworth got inside their markers, the ball bounced invitingly on the edge of the box, keeper Lee Martin appeared to hesitate and CONROY nodded over him into the unguarded net.

At the other end, Barry Richardson, back between the sticks after a three-match absence, saved under the bar from a Watson header.

On 24 minutes, the Seasiders were a shade fortunate not to give away a penalty when Ainsworth went down in the area under a challenge from Phil Brown. Then Tony Ellis set up Chris Beech, he rounded Richardson but Andy Fensome got in with a great saving tackle. Four minutes later, it was Blackpool's turn to be refused a penalty as Ellis seemed to be brought down by both Holmes and Richardson as they tried desperately to get the ball away from the goalmouth.

Blackpool keeper Lee Martin was hurt blocking a Conroy near-post effort and then David Burke got in a tremendous tackle to rib the striker as he was about to convert a Trebble knock-back.

Two minutes into the second-half, Martin got down to save from Raynor and then a Trebble cross rolled harmlessly across the Blackpool six-yard box.

Ainsworth should have wrapped things up on 58 minutes when Trebble got in another low cross but he spooned it over the top from just eight yards.

A curling cross from Mitchell evaded both Ellis and Watson and flashed wide of the far post and then on 71 minutes, North End escaped punishment for slack marking as Ellis sent a glancing header against the far post. North End's luck held again in the final minutes when avid Moyes' attempted clearance cannoned off substitute Neil Whalley and Richardson was just alert enough to prevent an own goal!

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Blackpool 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Conroy)
Blackpool (-)

Attendance
14,036

Line-ups
Preston North End
B.Richardson A.Fensome R.Sharp
L.Cartwright S.Holmes D.Moyes
G.Ainsworth (N.Whalley) I.Bryson P.Raynor
M.Conroy (M.Sale) N.Trebble
sub D.Lucas
Blackpool
L.Martin P.Brown D.Burke M.Bradshaw
D.Thompson P.Horner N.Mitchell C.Beech
A.Watson T.Ellis B.Griffiths (J.Quinn)
subs A.Gouck M.Capleton

What the papers said
Brian Ellis of the Lancashire Evening Post wrote 'A win over rivals Blackpool is always guaranteed to keep the fans warm over a long winter. But the look on the manager's face indicated it might only offer short-term respite for him. Beck knows he needs a few more of these if he isn't to be out in the cold come Christmas'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Friday 13th December 1996

Substitute's double helps North End to televised derby success.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackpool 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Bennett 2 Reeves)
Blackpool (-)

Attendance
14,626

Line-ups
Preston North End
B.Mimms K.Gage D.Barrick S.Davey R.Kidd
S.Gregan L.Ashcroft N.McDonald D.Reeves
G.Atkinson (G.Bennett) K.Kilbane
subs J.Squires I.Bryson
Blackpool
S.Banks L.Thorpe A.Barlow M.Bradshaw
D.Linighan (P.Corden) D.Brightwell M.Bonner
M.Mellon L.Philpott T.Ellis A.Preece
subs S.Darton I.Onwere

Because of the depth of rivalry between these struggling clubs and of course the fear of losing for reasons of both points and pride, the game against the Seasiders was never likely to be a classic for the Sky TV cameras.

Former Preston favourite Tony Ellis was heckled throughout the game, the home fans' fury being enough to cause him to miss a number of goalscoring opportunities. The first came after just five minutes when he was clean through on goal but instead of waiting for Mimms to commit himself, he shot straightaway, allowing the North End keeper to turn the ball round the post.

At the other end, David Reeves had a chance to open the scoring but Graeme Atkinson's cross caught him by surprise and the ball cannoned off his foot for Banks to save with his leg. Reeves then had a shot charged down before shooting straight at Banks. The last scoring chance of the first-half fell to Sean Gregan, but the North End skipper's powerful header was well saved by the Blackpool keeper.

A minute after the interval, Tony Ellis missed another goalscoring chance, allowing Dean Barrick to nip and clear the danger.

Midway through the second-half, Gary Bennett replaced Graeme Atkinson. The former Tranmere Rovers' striker whose only Preston goal had helped beat Blackpool in the Marsden Cup Final, had been on the field for just three minutes when he scored the game's first goal. Steve Banks failed to reach Kevin Gage's cross and as the ball came off David Reeves' head, the ball fell to BENNETT who lashed it into the empty goal.

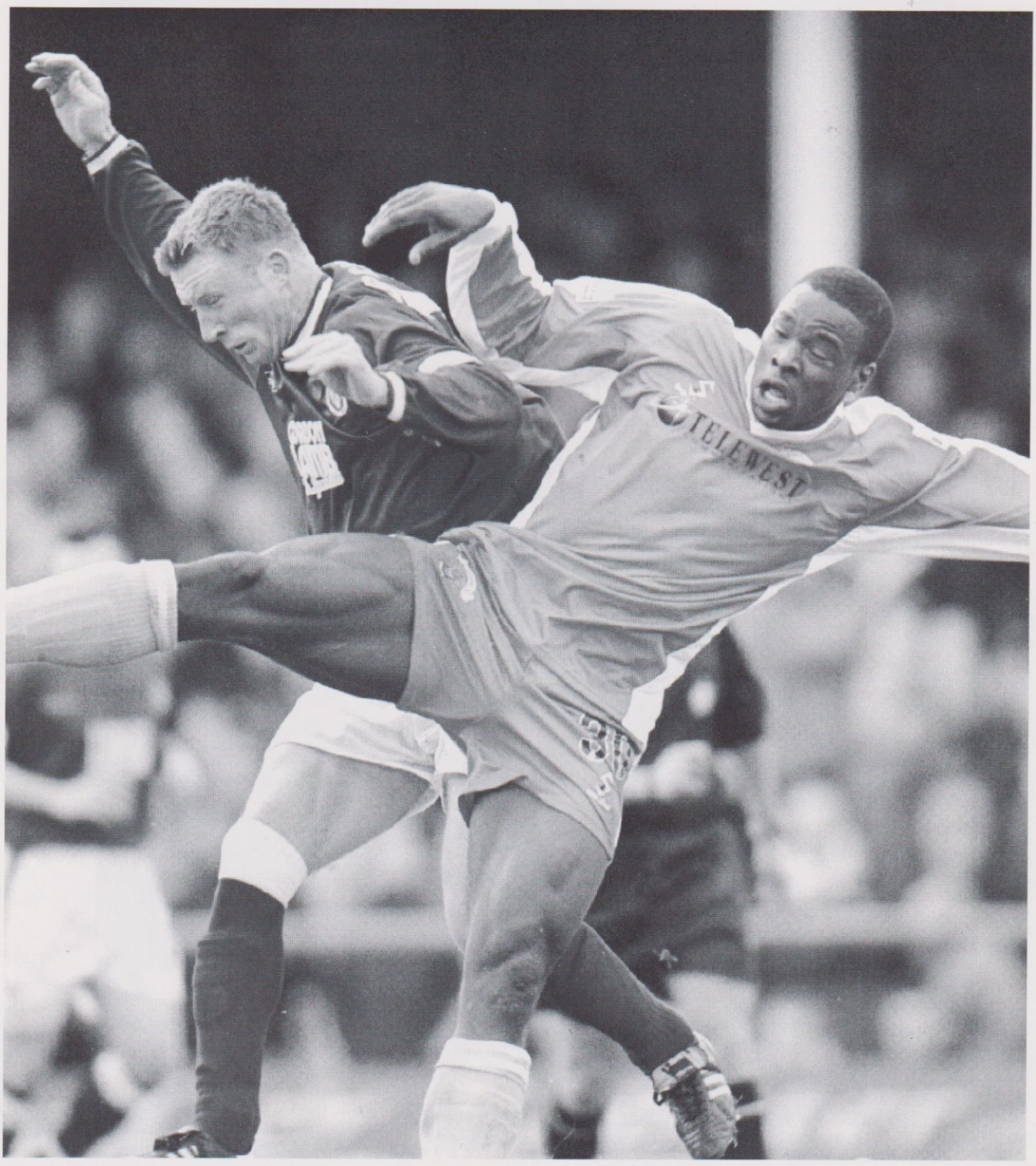
Four minutes later, the Whites went 2-0 up when Lee Ashcroft's backheel allowed Simon Davey to cross to the far post where David REEVES rose above the Seasiders' defenders to head past Banks.

Blackpool almost pulled a goal back on 76 minutes but Andy Preece glanced his header wide of the post with only Bobby Mimms to beat. Two minutes later, a short Kilbane corner to Neil McDonald was chipped to the near post where Reeves headed it on for BENNETT to stoop low and head home from close range.

Though Preece had another good chance in the dying minutes, the result was never in doubt. New signing Sean Gregan was outstanding but it was Gary Bennett's goals that rightly earned him the accolades and helped North End's season finally take off.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

David Reeves (seen here against the Seasiders for one of his former clubs).



PRESTON NORTH END FC

Lee Ashcroft: sent the Burnley fans home early with his 70th minute winner. He is now playing for Wigan Athletic.

BURNLEY v PRESTON NORTH END

Saturday 25th January 1997

Ashcroft 'double' secures victory for battling North End.

The Clarets attracted their biggest home crowd for two-and-a-half years but sent them home disappointed. Their derby downfall can be explained in one sentence - North End wanted to win more than Burnley did.

It could have been a humiliating experience for the Clarets but for a couple of goal-line clearances, two marvellous saves from Marlon Beresford and a string of poor finished from North End!

An early corner and a flashing shot from Lee Ashcroft signalled North End's intentions. The visitors finally took the lead after six minutes when Kevin Kilbane shot from point-blank range. Beresford reacted well to block the ball but it fell at the feet of ASHCROFT who buried the chance.

Preston were still celebrating when the Clarets equalised. Burnley won a free-kick on the left and Paul Smith produced the perfect delivery which Peter Swan headed against the bar. Kelham O'Hanlon was stranded and BARNES pounced to volley home the rebound from close range. Two minutes later, Smith's telling delivery was scrambled clear, whilst at the other end, Ashcroft's shot scraped the outside of the post.

Burnley then began to dominate proceedings with both Eyres and Little impressing on the flanks but it was North End who almost took the lead. Gary Bennett intercepted a weak back pass to the keeper, rounded Beresford and shot but Chris Brass got back and cleared the ball off the line as Bennett was already turning to celebrate. The ball bounced back to Bennett, who then shot into the side-netting with both Ashcroft and Kilbane better placed. Brass then cleared a David Moyes' header off the line as the first-half ended with North End winning a string of corners and free-kicks in dangerous positions.

North End were guilty of two bad misses early in the second-half as both Ashcroft and Bennett missed the target when it seemed easier to score.

Gleghorn came close with a 30 yard drive before Kurt Nogan forced O'Hanlon into two marvellous one-handed saves in the space of five minutes. At the other end, Beresford foiled David Moyes, turning his diving header from Dean Barrick's cross round the post. However, in the 70th minute, Beresford parried Cartwright's shot into the path of Lee ASHCROFT who made no mistake from close range. Burnley should have been level five minutes later but Nogan, who was just five yards out, blazed the ball over the bar with O'Hanlon prostrate on the ground.

The sides played out the final minutes to the sight of a fast-emptying stadium as disenchanted Burnley fans left the ground early to avoid further embarrassment.

Final Score
Burnley 1 Preston North End 2

Venue
Turf Moor

Scorers
Burnley (Barnes)
PNE (Ashcroft 2)

Attendance
16,186

Line-ups
Burnley
M.Beresford G.Parkinson (P.Weller) D.Eyres
G.Harrison P.Swan C.Brass G.Little P.Smith
K.Nogan P.Barnes N.Gleghorn (D.Matthew)
sub J.Hoyland
Preston North End
K.O'Hanlon L.Cartwright D.Barrick S.Davey
R.Wilcox D.Moyes R.Kidd I.Bryson G.Bennett
(D.Reeves) L.Ashcroft K.Kilbane
subs P.McKenna K.Gage

What the papers said
Edward Lee in the Burnley Express wrote 'Twenty-five people were arrested in minor clashes before, during and after Burnley's Turf Moor derby defeat. Police say Clarets' fans were the main troublemakers and only a handful of Preston North End supporters joined them in the cells'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tuesday 30th September 1997

Pride restored!

Final Score
Preston North End 1 Blackburn Rovers 0

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Barrick)
Blackburn R (-)

Attendance
11,472

Line-ups
Preston North End
T.Moilanen G.Parkinson R.Kidd C.Murdock
M.Jackson S.Gregan M.Appleton L.Ashcroft
J.Macken (M.Holt) M.Rankine D.Barrick
subs D.Reeves L.Cartwright
Blackburn Rovers
T.Flowers P.Valery T.Pedersen G.Croft
C.Coleman D.Johnson (D.Duff) J.Beattie
B.McKinlay A.Anderson J.Wilcox P.Pedersen
subs W.Gill A.Reed

What the papers said
Peter White in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph wrote 'North End boss Gary Peters was probably trying to boost his own players by claiming this Rovers side would hold their own in the Premiership. I certainly wouldn't bet on it, nor would most people at Deepdale last night'.

With the luxury of a six-goal lead in the bank, Blackburn boss Roy Hodgson was able to select just three players who had started the Premiership game against Coventry City the previous Sunday - yet they still fielded seven internationals!

The scoreline, really, was immaterial. Rovers knew they were through to the third round of the League Cup by virtue of their 6-0 victory at Ewood in the first leg - so too did Preston.

Rovers had the chance of extending their lead after just two minutes but Per Pedersen with time and space could only shoot tamely wide. Then there was an awful mix-up between Michael Jackson and Tepi Moilanen from which North End escaped to take the lead after 15 minutes.

Dean Barrick started the move on the left, passed to Mark Rankine and he, in turn, played the ball out to Michael Appleton on the right. The cross eluded everyone and somehow found its way back to BARRICK advancing to the penalty area on the left. He unleashed a terrific shot across Tim Flowers and inside the far post for a brilliant finish.

Dean Barrick.

Five minutes later, Jonathan Macken was stretchered off following an innocuous-looking challenge by Tore Pedersen to be replaced by former Rovers' player Michael Holt.

In nearly seven minutes of stoppage time at the end of the first-half, Flowers failed to hold a shot from Ryan Kidd and Holt's first-time shot cannoned off the keeper's knee and on to the crossbar!

Then James Beattie caused some discomfort in North End's defensive ranks with a shot that brought a fine save out of Tepi Moilanen.

North End could have extended their lead during the early stages of the second-half but Flowers saved well from Cartwright and Holt while Parkinson's long range effort passed inches outside the keeper's left-hand post.

There then developed something of a stand-off situation but Rovers should have equalised in the 75th minute. Pedersen was clean through but he fluffed the chance and allowed Moilanen to spread himself and save with his legs. Minutes later, Anderson too had the chance to level the scores on the night but he was denied by Ryan Kidd's last-gasp tackle.

Though Rovers had the upper hand, they failed to convince anyone that they were going to equalise, Billy McKinlay going closest with a shot that actually forced Moilanen into making a save!

Preston's larger-than-life mascot, the Deepdale Duck pranced around the perimeter of the pitch in the pouring rain as North End reclaimed a bit of pride.

BURNLEY v PRESTON NORTH END

Tuesday 17th February 1998

Payton goal ends North End's Wembley dream.

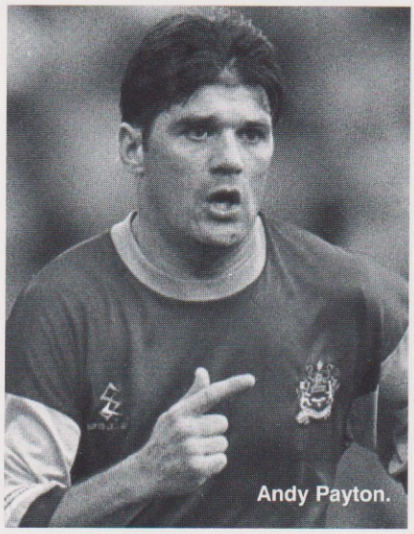
Sharpshooter Andy Payton fired the Clarets into the Northern Area Final of the Autowindscreen Shield with the only goal of the game. They then faced a two-legged fight for the right to play at Wembley against Grimsby Town.

There was an untidy start to the game as both sides struggled to get the ball down and play football.

North End created the first real chance of the game when Lee Cartwright beat Moore for pace and slipped the ball forwards to Nogan. Harrison slipped as he moved in to tackle but Nogan wasted a golden opportunity by snatching at his shot and firing well over.

Preston skipper Sean Gregan went into the book for dissent but it was the visitors who were the better side and former Clarets' favourite John Mullin was brought down from behind by Harrison as he shaped to shoot.

The Clarets gradually got back into the game and on 28 minutes carved out the home side's best chance. Glen Little robbed Gregan and played a one-two with Payton before releasing Andy Cooke. The Burnley striker cut back inside but fired into the side-netting. Four minutes later, Payton outpaced Colin Murdock but failed to get any real power in his shot from a tricky angle. But moments later, Payton put that behind him. Little fed Brass on the right with a perfectly-weighted pass and the full-back whipped the ball in. PAYTON's first effort was kept out, but he bundled the rebound home.



Andy Payton.

However, the Clarets looked very shaky at the start of the second-half as North End put together a 15-minute spell of pressure. Yet to be honest, Beresford wasn't made to work and the Clarets weathered the storm.

At the other end, Cooke was inches away from converting a Payton cross-cum-shot and Robertson's first time shot skimmed the bar.

Former Burnley favourite Kurt Nogan was replaced by Jonathan Macken. The former Manchester United player was straight in the action, appearing to elbow Blatherwick and the centre-half reacted angrily, shoving Macken in the face. The former Nottingham Forest man was booked for his troubles but a minute later he was on hand to make a goal-line clearance from a dangerous Lee Cartwright cross.

The home side had to endure a nail-biting last few minutes as Cartwright had another effort cleared off the goal-line by Blatherwick and Macken headed inches wide with Beresford beaten but corner after corner couldn't produce an equaliser for North End.

Final Score
Burnley 1 Preston North End 0

Venue
Turf Moor

Scorers
Burnley (Payton)
PNE (-)

Attendance
10,079

Line-ups
Burnley
M.Beresford C.Brass M.Winstanley
G.Harrison (J.Hoyland) N.Moore G.Little
S.Blatherwick M.Robertson A.Cooke
A.Payton (K.Henderson) N.Matthew (M.Ford)
Preston North End
T.Moilanen G.Parkinson D.Barrick C.Murdock
M.Jackson S.Gregan L.Cartwright L.Ashcroft
J.Mullin K.Nogan (J.Macken) M.Appleton
subs D.Eyres S.Davey

What the papers said
Chris Boden writing in the Burnley Express said 'Although Burnley had to survive a late North End onslaught in the second-half, Marlon Beresford wasn't troubled and the Clarets were worthy winners'.

PRESTON NORTH END v BLACKPOOL

Saturday 18th April 1998

Honours even in six-goal thriller.

Final Score
Preston North End 3 Blackpool 3

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Parkinson Macken Eyres)
Blackpool (Clarkson 2 Hills)

Attendance
13,500

Line-ups
Preston North End
T.Moilanen G.Parkinson D.Barrick C.Murdock P.Mckenna S.Gregan M.Rankine S.Davey L.Ashcroft J.Macken D.Eyres (K.Nogan) subs D.Moyes M.Holt
Blackpool
S.Banks M.Bryan J.Hills T.Butler I.Hughes D.Linighan L.Philpott P.Clarkson S.Taylor (M.Conroy) J.Bent (G.Brabin) A.Preece: sub C.Carlisle

What the papers said
Brian Ellis of the Lancashire Evening post wrote 'The draw made Preston safe but that wasn't really the point. What really matters is the best of enemies ended all-square and with pride still intact. Everyone went home reasonably happy. Everyone that is, bar the obligatory derby day nutters who still felt the urge to bash seven bells out of each other regardless of the feast of entertainment they had just been treated to'.

Needing a result to lift the gloom after relegation had hung over their heads for so long, North End played Blackpool in front of Deepdale's biggest crowd since the Seasiders last visited in December 1996. It was certainly an old-fashioned derby, yet considering the intensity of feeling between the two clubs, it was never dirty and the referee didn't have to reach for his yellow card once!

Blackpool took the lead after just three minutes when Scott Taylor got away down the right and Gregan tracked across to cover. However, he was left trailing in his wake as the striker cut in before crossing for Phil CLARKSON to hook the ball past Tepi Moilanen.

Shortly afterwards Jonathan Macken saw a shot blocked and Simon Davey's follow-up was also charged down. At the other end, Moilanen pulled off a superb save from Taylor's 20 yard shot but five minutes later, North End were level. Macken pushed the ball inside to Davey, he squared it across the area to David EYRES and he lashed in a left-foot shot past Banks and in off the foot of the post.

The Blackpool keeper flung himself up and across to tip a 25 yards drive from Gary Parkinson over the bar and though North End were now the better team, they fell behind on the stroke of half-time. Colin Murdock played a long ball out to Davey and he nodded the ball back to Parkinson, but as the full-back tried to control it, he fell and Lee Philpott darted off down the left to win a corner off Sean Gregan. As the ball came into the six-yard box, Moilanen went up unchallenged but clattered into the back of Dean Barrick and dropped the ball. Barrick cleared the danger but only as far as John HILLS who rifled home a left-foot shot from the edge of the box.

Two minutes into the second-half, Davey was refused a quite legitimate penalty appeal. However, on 50 minutes, North End were level. McKenna's corner was headed out as far as Gary PARKINSON and from fully 30 yards, his shot rifled into the corner of the net with Banks grasping at thin air.

On the hour mark, North End took the lead for the first time in the match when Banks failed to hold Rankine's shot and MACKEN reacted the quickest to side-foot the rebound into the far corner.

Five minutes later, Philpotts crossed from the left, Preece headed on to CLARKSON who beat Barrick and Murdock before slamming the ball past Moilanen from close range.

North End almost won it in the dying stages but Banks made a reflex save from Mark Rankine's shot.

On balance it was fair result and the fact that it gave North End the point they needed was really only an afterthought.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Gary Parkinson has played for Preston, Burnley and Blackpool.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Kirt Nogan embarrassed his former club with a goal in this convincing 4-1 win.

PRESTON NORTH END v BURNLEY

Saturday 7th November 1998

Clarets suffer embarrassing rout!

North End's programme included a comprehensive article on the visitors, kindly pointing out that the Clarets had lost 10-0 twice in the past. It is fair to say that this game could quite easily have eclipsed those results.

Burnley's on-loan keeper Gavin Ward stood between Preston and a best-ever win against the Clarets.

The oldest fixture in the Football League was to be played for the 101st time and whilst North End went in as favourites, Burnley hoped to repeat the previous season's upset.

Preston attacked hard with full-back Dominic Ludden a constant threat and former Claret, David Eyres doing his best to catch the eye. The opening exchanges saw North End have the best of things and Byfield should have put the home side ahead on 12 minutes. However, it was the visitors who took the lead after quarter-of-an-hour.

Ryan Kidd fouled Heywood on the halfway line. Clarets' skipper Gordon Armstrong hoisted the ball into the area, Reid nodded it into the middle and EASTWOOD left Gary Parkinson flat-footed to head into the top right-hand corner of David Lucas' goal.

Eight minutes later, Ludden caused more mayhem down the left and played in a neat cross. The ball was cleared to Mark RANKINE 25 yards out and he simply lashed it straight back into the roof of the net - it was a stunning strike from a player with only 23 league goals from over 350 games. That was the light that North End's blue touchpaper required and it was a minor miracle that the scores were still level at the interval.

Bemused as they must have been at half-time, they soon put the record straight after the break. Just 59 seconds of the second-half had elapsed when former Claret Kurt NOGAN fired North End into the lead from close range. It happened again three minutes later when another former Burnley favourite David EYRES was on hand to slam the ball past Ward from close quarters. The Clarets were in disarray and Preston threatened to go goal crazy!

Paul McKenna tried his luck from long range before BYFIELD scored from the edge of the area after good work by Eyres. There was over half-an-hour left and North End were cruising at 4-1. From then on it was one-way traffic towards the Burnley goal. Ward made an excellent one-handed save from Nogan and then got down expertly to deny Eyres. Chance after chance was rained on Ward's goal. McKenna's thundering shot brought another fine save out of Ward and a Nogan header flashed inches wide.

With six minutes to play, Jonathan Macken entered the fray, his first touch setting up McKenna for a header tat flew inches wide of the target. Macken then burst into the area but shot over the top. It was a move he was to repeat twice in stoppage time as he missed the chance to net a quickfire hat-trick!

Final Score
Preston North End 4 Burnley 1

Venue
Deepdale

Scorers
PNE (Rankine Nogan Byfield Eyres)
Burnley (Eastwood)

Attendance
15,838

Line-ups
Preston North End
D.Lucas G.Parkinson D.Ludden R.Kidd
M.Jackson M.Appleton P.McKenna
M.Rankine (L.Cartwright) K.Nogan D.Byfield
(J.Macken) D.Eyres sub C.Murdock
Burnley
G.Ward C.Scott S.Morgan R. Vindheim
(M.Ford) M.Heywood B.Reid (K.Henderson)
P.Eastwood C.Brass G.Armstrong
(B.Maylett) A.Payton J.O'Kane

What the papers said
Edward Lee in the Burnley Express wrote 'On Saturday at Deepdale, Gavin Ward stood between Preston and a best-ever win against the Clarets. It was real men against boys stuff'.

BOLTON WANDERERS v PRESTON NORTH END

Monday 28th May 2001

Play-Off Final disappointment.

Final Score
Bolton Wanderers 3 Preston North End 0

Venue
The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

Scorers
Bolton W (Farrelly Ricketts Gardner)
PNE (-)

Attendance
54,328

Line-ups
Bolton Wanderers
M.Clarke A.Barness S.Charlton C.Hendry
G.Bergsson K.Nolan G.Farrelly P.Frandsen
(R.Elliott) B.Hansen (M.Ricketts)
D.Holdsworth (M.Whitlow) R.Gardner
Preston North End
D.Lucas G.Alexander R.Edwards
C.Murdock S.Gregan R.Kidd P.McKenna
(R.Cresswell) M.Rankine J.Macken D.Healy
L.Cartwright (I.Anderson)

The season's soccer pilgrimage came to an end, not at Mecca but, at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium where North End and Bolton Wanderers met in the First Division play-off final. Having missed out in both final and semi-final stages in the past two years, the Wanderers started the game as clear favourites.

With a place in the Premiership at stake, it wasn't too surprising that the game got off to a somewhat edgy start.

The game's first chance went to Jonathan Macken when he was allowed a free header from just six yards out. Sadly, he seemed surprised that the ball had reached him and could only direct it straight at Bolton keeper Matt Clarke. The Wanderers went ahead on 17 minutes when Rob Edwards' clearance from a Simon Charlton free-kick fell to Gareth FARRELLY. His right-foot shot took a slight deflection off Mark Rankine before beating the dive of David Lucas. The goal certainly inspired the Trotters - Hansen slipping with only the Preston keeper to beat and Holdsworth bringing a good save out of Lucas, who spread himself at the near post to keep out his effort. It was all Bolton and skipper Gudni Bergsson saw a looping header land on the roof of the net before Lucas denied Gardner with a fine diving save from the Jamaican's volley.

During the early stages of the second-half, Mark Rankine sprung the Bolton offside trap but his shot was too weak to trouble Clarke.

Rankine had another chance moments later but snatched at his shot, sending it well wide of the target. Then with a little over twenty minutes to play, Macken held off two defenders before feeding Healy. The diminutive striker managed to get in a shot but it was too close to the Bolton keeper who turned it behind for a corner.

North End continued to push forward in search of an equaliser with Macken and Healy again teaming up well. Macken held off the attentions of Colin Hendry before laying the ball off to Healy, whose powerful shot was turned behind by Clarke. Five minutes from time, the on-loan keeper did well when he punched away Healy's cross with Macken in close attendance.

A minute later, the game was all but over when Michael RICKETTS fastened on to Farrelly's through all, rounded Lucas and slid the ball into the empty net. With the game in its last minute, Jamaican international Ricardo GARDNER broke from inside his own half and outpaced a tired North End defence before unleashing an unstoppable shot past Lucas.

Despite the unhappy ending it was one to look back on with pride - a magnificent team spirit and dogged determination proved key factors in a terrific season.

PRESTON NORTH END FC

Jon Macken displays everyone's diappointment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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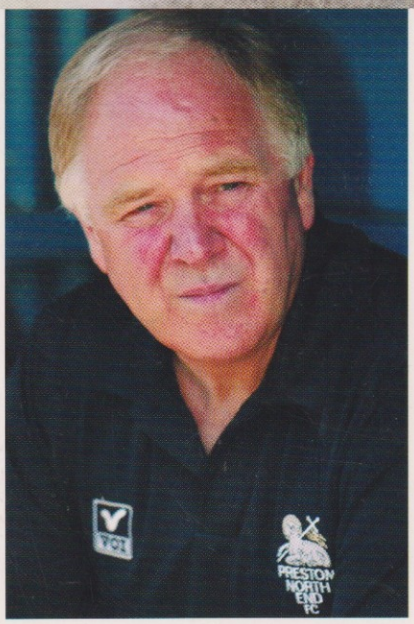

When you think of famous derby matches, matches such as Liverpool versus Everton, Manchester United versus Manchester City and Celtic versus Rangers come to mind, but for the fans involved their own team's derby matches believe theirs is the most intense.

Football's big derby matches were born in Lancashire, with Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Blackpool and our own Preston North End all rivals in the early days of professional football in England and throughout the last 125 years.

This book contains some amazing matches, with many talented players playing key roles; Sir Tom Finney, Sir Nat Lofthouse, Sir Stanley Matthews, Ronnie Clayton and Jimmy McIlroy just to name a few of the many greats featured.

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